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Case vs driver of car found in fatal 3-car crash in Garapan dismissed. » PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 11

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY JANUARY 18, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

Theft charges against ex-Rota mayor, co-defendants dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has dismissed the theft charges filed against former Rota mayor Melchor A. Mendiola and four other former Rota municipal employees, and vacated the jury trial set for Jan. 25, 2016.

» Possession or removal of govt property charges still active

» Jury trial for Jan. 25 vacated

Mendiola and co-defendants Stacey Atalig, Tina Atalig, Alfred Apatang, and Bernard Apatang, however, are still facing a criminal case charging them each with possession or removal of government property offense. The charge is for bench trial and not for jury trial.

In an order issued on Saturday, Camacho dismissed with prejudice the case charging Mendiola and co-defendants with theft.

Dismiss with prejudice means the prosecution cannot re-open the case anymore.

Camacho said the government should not be able to charge, dismiss, and re-charge cases until it gets the outcome it wants, a sort of conduct that Rule 48(a) of the Criminal

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Guerrero re-elected as BOE chair

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guerrero

Herman T. Guerrero remains as the chairman of the CNMI Board of Education after an election held last Thursday.

Guerrero was unanimously voted by the members of the board at the

See GUERRERO on Page 4

Search continues for sighted brown tree snakes

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The search continues for possible brown tree snakes on island following two sightings earlier this month.

According to the U.S Geological Survey, one of the agencies that are currently on island to help local agencies, they have no evidence or trace yet of the snake that was estimated to be 4 to 5 feet long according to eyewitnesses.

"In terms of evidence, it's pretty tough to find. If there's a snake there, maybe we can find a shed, a snake shed, but a lot of times it's going to

See SEARCH on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Searchers from various local and federal agencies continue to look for the brown tree snakes spotted earlier this month. They are currently focusing on and scouring parts of Dandan Village where the sightings were reported.

INSIDE

LOCAL
As a high school student, Audry "Dre" Delos Santos was shy and struggled with his studies.

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BUSINESS
The world's largest retailer is closing 269 stores, including 154 in the U.S. that includes all of its locations under its smallest-format concept store.

» PAGE 17

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Local

20 take oath as newest US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For 78-year-old Rosa Borja Flores, obtaining U.S. citizenship after moving from Palau to Saipan at the end of World War II in 1946 or 1947, brings excitement to her life.

"I'm elated and very happy," said Flores, through her family members who served as interpreters.

Flores retired in 2003 as an employee of the Aging Center.

For Noel Mangulabnan Roque, who hails from the Philippines, he's so happy that after working on Saipan for 30 years, he is finally a U.S. citizen.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan supervisor Lt. Mihai Leta, and Immigration Services officer Diane S. Zedde pose for a group photo with 20 newest U.S. citizens during the naturalization ceremony held in District Court on Friday.

Roque left Pampanga, Philippines during the country's People Power Revolution in February 1986. On Saipan, he started his career in the tourism industry as a bartender. After many years he eventually became a manager of a hotel.

Roque is now with the Public School System assigned in monitoring food services.

Roque's three children, all born on Saipan, and his wife are now staying in the U.S. mainland. One of his children is now with the U.S. Marines.

Roque said with his U.S. citizenship, work is easier and he has a lot of opportunities.

He recalled that unlike before it was hard to get a promotion although he knows he has the knowledge and skills for the position.

Hong Gao Piliwale, who is from China, for her part, said she is proud and at the same time excited to become a U.S. citizen.

Piliwale left China to work at Duty Free Shoppers on Saipan in 2009. She met a man from Hawaii on Saipan and they eventually got married.

"U.S. citizenship means I have now freedom and more opportunities," she said.

Piliwale, 45, is now a flight attendant with Dynamic Airlines.

Flores, Roque, and Piliwale were among the 20 persons who took oath as the newest U.S. citizens during the naturalization ceremony held at the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday.

Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy presided over the ceremony. The newest U.S. citizens are mostly from the Philippines and the rest are from China, Korea, and Palau.

Immigration Services officer Diane S. Zedde moved to accept the 20 candidates as new U.S. citizens.

U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan supervisor Lt. Mihai Leta served as the guest speaker at the naturalization ceremony held in conjunction with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Leta said just like the 20 newest U.S. citizens, he sat in their position 20 years ago as he was naturalized in his hometown of Portland, Oregon.

Leta congratulated the newest U.S. citizens for their "long journey, dedication, and perseverance to become Americans."

Leta encouraged them to take part in the democratic process as voters, jurors and responsible citizens.

"Strive to give back to your community and new nation. Bring others up and come to the aid the weak, the poor and underprivileged because that is what we do as Americans," he said.

Aside from Flores, Roque, and Piliwale, the other newest citizens are Roselyne Saruyda Babauta, Candida Aranda Bahillio, Jose Asejo Bahillio, Joseph Aranda Bahillio, Clodualdo Cabrera Calibo, Erlinda Campana Calibo, Isabelita Habal Camacho, Ofelia Albano Castro, Jose J-R Aprigil Jacinto, Maria Anafe Dayo Licop, and Sofia Abaygar Mallari.

The other newest citizens are Aeja Park, Ming Yue Jin Pascual, Yolanda Ocampo Perez, Maribel Funtilla Sasakura, Conchita Maglalang Solis, and Jocelyn Gonzaga Toskas.

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Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Korea's "Hidden Singer"

The **Northern Mariana Islands** was featured three times this month on Korea's **"Hidden Singer,"** an entertainment TV program broadcast on JTBC.

The show included snippets from a promotional video of the Northern Marianas with subtitles describing the destination and the logo of the **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** at the end of the program. The contestant with the highest score from the audience at the end of the show would have a chance to travel to the NMI. The MVA supported the TV promotion with a family travel voucher (4 pax), including accommodations and airfare. "Hidden Singer" has a viewer rating of 4.4%.

So far this fiscal year, visitors from Korea comprise the largest percentage of total visitors to the Northern Marianas.

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Local GOP activity continues; Ada meets with RNC in S. Carolina

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Local GOP activity continues ahead of the Republican National Convention, scheduled for Cleveland, Ohio in July 2016.

Alan Philp, a representative of presidential candidate Jeb Bush, is set to arrive on island this Thursday, local GOP spokesperson Ivan Blanco said last week.

James Ada, local GOP president, also represented the CNMI at the winter meeting of the Republican National Convention late last week in Charleston, South Carolina, where he spoke some words about the late governor Eloy S. Inos' passing.

Ada also met with Republican president candidate Dr. Ben Carson, among other officials and RNC members.

According to video taken of the event in South Caroline, Ada spoke to members about the passing of Inos and asked for a moment of silence. Ada recalled the "sad moment" of holding a groundbreaking for a federal highway project on island without the late governor, the morning after he passed. Ada called the project—the final phase of the Route 31 project on Capital Hill—one of [Inos'] dreams."

» Rep of Jeb Bush set to arrive this week

"It was a very sad moment for us in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands," Ada said, speaking to a crowd. "Three days ago we buried our governor, one of the best governors we ever had."

On Thursday, the CNMI is set to receive another visit from a representative Republican presidential nominee hopeful.

Philp—former policy director to Florida governor Jeb Bush and former Deputy chief of staff to Colorado Governor Bill Owens—will be the third representative out to the Northern Marianas, after Jason Osborne, a Carson strategist, and Alan Cobb, consultant to presidential hopeful Donald Trump, visited island in past weeks.

Osborne, a senior strategist for Republican candidate Dr. Ben Carson, also told *Saipan Tribune* of Carson's plans to create a Territory and Commonwealth Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Carson also plans to appoint a special assistant to the President responsible for day-to-day interaction with the territories and commonwealths.

Osborne said these officials would advise Carson of what he can do, either through his administration, or by putting together a package for legislation in Congress, to address issues like Obamacare, which does not apply to the CNMI, or how territories can serve U.S.-flagged vessels while the CNMI cannot.

Every Republican candidate—with the exception of Ohio governor John Kasich—has paid the $7,500 fee the CNMI GOP set to put their name on the ballot for the presidential primary, GOP officials earlier said.

For his part, Cobb said that the CNMI and Guam are of vital importance to the interests of the United States. Cobb said the islands' issues need to be front and center, as they hold strategic importance—both economically and militarily—as the only U.S. territories in Asia. Noting that Trump is a certainly in favor of a military buildup, Cobb said, "the decision's already been…and that makes sense," referring to the islands' strategic location.

On concerns about immigration, Cobb emphasized that

See GOP on Page 4

Manibusan urges other ways to make traffic offenders pay up

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan has commented on a House of Representatives bill to require rental car agencies to confirm that customers have valid driver's licenses, and make all owners of vehicles, or other persons employing—or otherwise directing the operators of vehicles—financially liable for any fines impose on rental drivers who leave the Commonwealth.

In a letter to the House Ways and Means Committee, Manibusan said the second objective of H.B. 19-53 is "unworkable," and called on lawmakers to find an alternative to enforcing payment of traffic fines against those who fail to pay. Lawmakers should revisit a driver's license forfeiture law that was repealed several years ago, he added.

"We are concerned with the impact of the second objective," Manibusan said. "Although the intent is to deal with visitors and the car rental industry…the amendment…extends beyond them."

He said the action prohibited by the bill is the failure to appear in court for traffic citation, "but the bill punishes the rental car agency—not the driver—for that action."

The government generally has the authority to punish a person for acting contrary to law, or failing to act when the law requires them to do so, but the bill, Manibusan said, "goes beyond the government's authority" by penalizing rental car companies for the acts of a party that are beyond the companies' control.

Manibusan said lawmakers should consider other alternatives to ensure traffic offenders—and residents and visitors alike—pay their fines. "Requiring a car rental company to pay a bond ensure payment or automatically revoking driver's licenses if the traffic fine is unpaid should be explored," he said.

CONGRATULATIONS!

On January 10, 2016, we had a winner at the New Kagman Market who wishes to remain anonymous. She bought three Star Spangled 7 Instant Scratchies Ticket and handed it to a store clerk to scratch it off for luck, when he told her she had won $1000, she was in disbelief. She asked the clerk to stop joking around, but when she took a closer look at the winning ticket, she was shocked and thrilled to realize she just won!

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Woman stabbed in San Antonio

A 23-year-old woman was stabbed and injured across the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio yesterday at noon.

The victim, a Filipina, sustained a laceration on the right hand and was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde.

Gersonde said the victim was assaulted by another and was injured while trying to defend herself.

Gersonde said he has no information whether the suspect is a male or female and whether an arrest was made.

He said DFEMS received a call from 911 dispatch about a stabbing incident across PIC yesterday at 12:05pm.

Medics from Koblerville Fire Station and rescue unit from Susupe Fire Station responded to the scene.

Upon arrival, medics came upon the injured victim who complained of pain on the right hand due to stabbing.

Gersonde said information regarding the investigation should be referred to the Department of Public Safety.

Saipan Tribune contacted DPS information office for more details about the incident but as of press time, there was no response yet. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

THEFT

From Page 4

Rules of Procedure seeks to prevent.

Camacho reminded the government that "while [a prosecutor] may strike hard blows, he is not at liberty to strike foul ones."

Camacho said it is as much a prosecutor's duty to "refrain from improper methods to produce a wrongful conviction as it is to use every legitimate means to bring about a just one."

The judge noted that it is obvious that the government's motion is a "motion for leave to amend" and a "motion to continue" disguised as a "motion to dismiss."

In essence, Camacho said, the court's concern is that the government will proceed with possession or removal of government property and will move to amend the information to include theft.

This, the judge pointed out, in effect circumventing the court's earlier order in the theft case denying the government's motion to amend.

Camacho issued on Saturday the order dismissing the case and a separate order vacating jury trial after listening to the counsels' arguments on Friday on the government's motion to dismiss theft charges without prejudice.

Defendants, through counsels, opposed the motion to dismiss the theft charges without prejudice. They asked the court to instead dismiss the charges with prejudice, which means the prosecution cannot re-open the case.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark, counsel for Stacey Atalig, said there was no explanation of the government's filing of possession or removal of government property with a week before the trial.

Clark said the prosecution wants to file, amend, dismiss, and re-file charges into infinity. He said the government is basically amending the case.

Attorney Thomas E. Clifford, counsel for Alfred Apatang, said he agrees with everything that Clark stated.

Clifford said the court should enforce the rules of criminal procedure.

Attorney Matthew Gregory, counsel for Tina Atalig, said the government's action is in violation of pre-trial order and prejudice to his client.

Gregory said the court should enforce the rules of criminal procedure to prevent people living perpetually under threat of charges.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Bernard Apatang, said the case was filed 10 months ago and that he does not understand why they are still in court.

"I think enough is enough! The court should dismiss this case with prejudice," Berline stressed.

"How about fiscal responsibility?" said Berline, pointing out that the case has been pending in court for 10 months now and as court-appointed counsels he and co-lawyers have yet to get paid in this case.

Berline said he spent plane tickets for the scheduled trial and other expenses using his credit card.

"Where's the AG's (Attorney General) credit card? That's my credit card," he said. "It got to be stopped."

Attorney Joaquin Torres, counsel for Mendiola, said the idea of innocent until proven guilty seems thrown out of the window in this case.

"I think at some point the court has to make a decision," Torres said.

Assistant attorney general Baisley said it is inappropriate to rule in defendants' favor without full briefing and case law presented.

Baisley said it is extra ordinary to dismiss the case with prejudice.

Baisley said the suggestion that the case sat on his lap is not fair.

In his order on Saturday, Camacho said as the hearing progressed, it became increasingly clear that under some unspecified circumstances, the government might again charge the defendants with theft.

Camacho said he is not aware of what situation would prompt the Commonwealth to re-file the theft charges.

Camacho said since this case was so close to trial, a significant amount of funds had already been expended by the judiciary and defense counsel.

He said court marshals have flown from Saipan to Rota multiple times to serve jury summons in this case.

Camacho said taking into account the trips to Rota, the attorney's fees for the court-appointed private counsels, and the costs of making repairs to the Rota Courthouse, the judiciary has already spent over $50,000 on this case.

Camacho noted that the items alleged to have taken in this case care are four laptops with values ranging from $975 to $2,049, as well as nine picnic tables.

In his order to show cause last week, Camacho ordered Baisley to explain why the government filed on Tuesday the penal summons with attached information charging the defendants each with possession or removal of government property when the government filed on Monday a motion to dismiss the case charging the defendants with theft.

In his response to the order to show cause, Baisley asserted that the Commonwealth moved to dismiss the charges of theft because it intends to proceed forward against defendants on the possession or removal of government property charges.

On Thursday, Camacho vacated the hearing as to the order to show cause.

On Friday, Camacho heard arguments on the government's motion to dismiss theft charges without prejudice.

GUERRERO

From Page 4

meeting held at the Public School System Emergency Operations Center at Capitol Hill.

"I want to thank the members for electing me again for another term," Guerrero said.

Guerrero, who has been part of the board for almost the past 14 years, said this was his last term as a member of the board.

"I hope the existing board members and those that will continue on will carry on the accomplishment and milestones that education has moved," Guerrero said.

"What I'm glad about my term all these years is that we have elevated the student and support services as well as accountability aspect of PSS. It is something that, since I came on board, I kept pushing the commissioner back then and now everything is falling into place," he added.

Guerrero said he will continue to work closely with other board members with regards to their policies.

"I intend closely with the board members and review our policies in place and look in terms of what needs to be upgraded or strengthened in all the different committees and regulations," Guerrero said.

"Hopefully we still believe in our slogan of 'Students first.' And we need to do whatever it takes to help the students and hopefully their career path," he added.

For vice chair, the board elected Tanya King, replacing MaryLou S. Ada for the said position.

King commended PSS for its role in recovery after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

"The devastation that this community went through was beyond comprehension and I just would like to commend the commissioner and all the principals, the parents and all those involved…for everything that you have done to bring stability to the children's lives and to start the school off," King said.

"I know this was a tremendous undertaking and you pulled it off and it's just a testament to Saipan's incredibly strong, resilient and truly, truly amazing," she added.

Janice Tenorio was re-elected as the secretary/treasurer of the board.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan thanked the prior board officers as well as welcomed the officers in their new term.

"As we move into the term of the new officers of the board, I certainly do continue to look forward in the assistance that you can give us in our effort to ensure quality education for all children," Sablan said.

"I'm very happy with the composition of the board," she added.

Other members of the board are Florine Hofschneider as well as non-public school representative Galvin Deleon Guerrero and student representative Angelly Marie Guiang, who are appointed members.

SEARCH

From Page 4

be deep in the jungle somewhere," USGS rapid response team coordinator Adam Knox told *Saipan Tribune*.

"It will be great to have the snake go in the trap but the valuable role is to get the snake closer to us especially at night. The traps are all set up on our search line," he added.

The search team isn't also sure how many snakes were able to get on island.

"We hope that it's just one snake but we don't know," DLNR-DFW wildlife section supervisor Anne Orlando said.

Asked about the possibility of snake reproduction, Knox said there is a possibility.

"We do know that it's possible for a snake to, if it got away from Guam and when it came here it's a pregnant female, it can obviously have babies here without finding a new snake to mate with," Knox said.

He added that female brown tree snakes can store sperm up to more than a year for it to reproduce.

According to Knox, the rain events experienced over the last days makes the situation better for them.

"It actually makes it better. The snakes start moving around when it rains or sometimes they get flooded out of their burrow or wherever they may be hiding," Knox said.

About 15 people from agencies such as USGS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources-Division of Fish and Wildlife are conducting intensive night searches on the ground as well as trees for four to five hours nightly as the brown tree snakes tend to move and search for prey at night and around dawn and dusk

Over 80 mouse-baited traps have been set.

The searchers are looking around the area in Dandan as the sightings happened in the residential area there, as well as by the airport.

Knox said they may widen the search area should they not be able to find the snake in the said village.

"Right now this is what we're focused on but there's always a chance we could [widen the search area]," Knox said.

Knox and Orlando stressed the need for everyone in the public to keep their eyes open for brown tree snakes and should they see one, try to make an effort to catch, trap, or decapitate it.

They said that it is easy to catch it by the tail especially when it is in its escape mode when it tries to get away from you. Should a snake be in the defensive mode, described as when the head looks directly and is in S-form, it would be best to wait for it to get into escape mode.

In grabbing the snake's tail, avoid lifting it all the off the ground so that it won't curl up to your hand. The snake can be hit by a sharp object such as machete or shovel tip to decapitate it.

GOP

From Page 4

Trump is concerned about "illegal" immigration. "You have different issues here without a border. You have basically shores that are hard to defend, and along those lines you want to make sure you have enough federal personnel."

The local GOP has three delegates so far for the RNC in July: Ada himself, Vicky Villagomez, and Bo Palacios. They will elect six delegates in March, according to Ada.

"…The Western region—CNMI, Guam, and all the insular areas—form a very strong team, if not the largest number of delegates that can vote in the upcoming presidential nomination," Ada said last month.

A change in U.S. Republican Party convention rules in 2012 now requires presidential candidates to win a majority of eight delegations across the mainland and U.S. territory-wide to be entered into nomination and have their delegates counted at the Republican National Convention, scheduled for Cleveland, Ohio in July 2016. This means that a Republican hopeful needs only to win eight out the 55-some states or territories to get on the national floor.

Nursing board: Applications are up to date

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Board of Nursing has hired an administrative assistant to address the needs of their office with regards to licensing applications.

According to board chair Bertha Camacho, the new staff assists office manager Carol Fleming in looking into the 150 to 200 applications that the Board processes every month.

"It helps to make sure that all of our applications are looked at in a timely manner. Missing documents can be identified. Communications is a big thing," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*, "Having her, she can deal with the correspondences."

The BON office said it receives up to 160 emails per week.

The new administrative assistant, Esther Wabol, came on board last November. BON said they are now able to get back on track after the effects of Typhoon Soudelor and continues to move forward.

"Thank you to our board members and office manager for putting in the extra time and effort in clearing the backlog," Camacho said.

BON said all processing of applications are up to date and current and regular meetings are resuming as scheduled.

Last October, *Saipan Tribune* received a handful of complaints from applicants who said they have been waiting for months for their applications to be processed and that BON doesn't reply to their queries and messages.

Camacho clarified that some of the complaints was not true and that they have been in communication with the applicants.

"Every application is different in terms of what document may be missing and what nursing school was attended. This is why some applications may take longer to get reviewed and approved. Some nursing schools may need to go through a credentialing process, either by Commission on Graduates and Foreign Nursing Schools or another approved credentialing agency, if the nursing school is not on the list of approved schools," Camacho said.

Asked if they will hire more staff to man their office, Camacho said "not at this moment."

"Right now I think we pretty much caught up with applications so we don't see the need to have another admin assistant right away," Camacho said.

However, Camacho added that they are looking at moving to a bigger and more sufficient office space than their current office at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Camacho said their funds as a board is sufficient.

"So far, it is sufficient enough for the board to operate and to pay our two hired staff," Camacho said.

Board officers

The board elected last Friday their set of officers.

Camacho was re-elected as the board chair this year. This will be her fourth term as chair since she served in 2007 to 2009 as well as last year.

Roca Sablan serves as the vice chair, Anna Diaz is secretary, while Rafaela Perry is treasurer. Aurelia Long from Tinian is a member.

BON said their volunteer members "have gone far and beyond their usual duties to review and approve National Council Licensure Examination applications in addition to reviewing and revising regulations and policies."

"It is with pleasure and excitement that the NMI BON looks forward to the new year in serving the people of the CNMI in the most efficient and effective way through regulatory excellence," Camacho said.

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- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

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Public Participation Requirement CNMI Public School System Early Intervention Program

Pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, & GEPA, the Public School System Early Intervention Program is required to provide at least 60 days prior to submission of grant applications for funds, a 60 day circulation notice with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period and provide an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of infants, toddlers and youth with disabilities, to provide comments.

DUE TO THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON APRIL 21, 2016

60 Day Public Circulation Period: January 18, 2016 to March 17, 2016
30 Day Public Comment Period: January 25, 2016 to February 23, 2016

Hard copies of the Grant Applications are available from Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm at the following locations:

Children's Development Assistance Center (CDAC) in Garapan 664-4841
You may also access the Grant Applications on the PSS Website:
http://www.cnmipss.org/early-intervention/

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-3774, hand delivered to the Children's Developmental Assistance Center located in Garapan or phone your comments into Children's Dev. Assistance Center: 664-4841

For more information, please contact Robin L. Palacios, Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program at 664-4841.

Case vs driver of car found in fatal 3-car crash in Garapan dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday dismissed the charges against Yi Wang, a 53-year-old Chinese teacher who was found at fault by traffic investigators in the three-car crash near Sugar King Park in Garapan that left one person dead and two others injured.

Camacho dismissed without prejudice the traffic case charging Wang with homicide by vehicle, driving on highways laned for traffic, and failure to signal, after assistant attorney general Emily S. Cohen, counsel for the government, orally moved to dismiss the case.

Dismiss without prejudice means the government may re-file the case in the future.

The scheduled preliminary hearing on Friday did not push through after Cohen moved to dismiss the case, saying the government needs more time to investigate the case.

Attorneys Bruce Berline and Benjamin Petersburg, counsel for Wang, did not object to the motion.

Camacho granted the motion and ordered that the $2,500 cash bail that Wang posted shall be exonerated and his passport and other travel documents be released to him.

Police arrested Wang last Jan. 10 after Romeo Sumilang, the 53-year-old passenger of a pickup truck who was tossed into the air and landed on the pavement, died in the hospital that morning. Sumilang, a Filipino construction worker, suffered severe head injuries, according to traffic investigator Norris Kwon.

Traffic investigators determined that Wang, the driver of the blue 2005 Toyota Matrix five-door wagon, caused the three-car crash that happened near Sugar King Park at noon last Jan. 7.

Sumilang was the passenger on the bed of a white 1990 Toyota Hilux pickup truck.

The truck's driver, Abad S. Santos, 45, a Filipino, was treated at the hospital due to pain to the left shoulder and was later released.

The truck's front right passenger was Santos' brother, Arnel S. Santos, 53, who was treated at the hospital due to pain on the chest and lower extremity, and later released.

The driver of a blue Honda Civic, a 47-year-old local female, was not injured.

According to traffic investigator Kwon, during an interview with police officer Juan Mendiola at the scene, Wang admitted to entering the Chalan Pale Arnold Road after visiting a nearby hardware store, then switching lanes from outer to inner lane in his attempt to make a left turn into Kopa Di Oru Street to head to his residence.

Kwon said Wang was switching lanes from outer lane to inner then attempted to make a left turn into an intersection, which all together is unsafe distance of less than 100 feet.

Wang's Toyota Matrix, which was lower than the Toyota Hilux pickup truck, struck the truck's right side undercarriage, causing it to lose balance, tilting to its left side until coming to a final rest upside down.

Sumilang was thrown off the truck's bed due to the impact from Wang's car. Sumilang's head came in contact with the pavement which caused severe head injuries.

Estoque graduates from basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman Benjielito D. Estoque graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Estoque is the son of Marcelina D. Plowman of Wahiawa, Hawaii, and Rosalito V. Estoque of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

He is a 2015 graduate of Marianas High School, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 2nd birthday Ishmael Jrake Borja Bhuiyan, May you have a blessed and wonderful day on your special day. Love Mommy and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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2002-2003 Acura TL
2003 Acura CL
2005 Acura RL

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Judge orders return of $223,022.79 to Tinian municipality

The federal court has granted a joint emergency motion filed by the U.S. government and the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan for the immediate release to the municipality a check in the amount of $223,022.79 that was part of the municipality's funds in a bank account that the U.S. Marshal seized pursuant to a court's order.

Finding good cause, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Thursday ordered that checks from the funds currently held in the court registry be issued to the Tinian municipal treasurer in the amount of $223,022.79 and $100,000 to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Jessica F. Cruz and Mikel W. Schwab, counsel for the U.S. government, and attorney Kimberlyn King-Hinds, counsel for Tinian and Aguiguan Municipality and other co-defendants, said the municipality urgently needs these funds for operational costs and employee salaries.

Last Dec. 24, the U.S. government applied for and obtained a writ of execution to levy the funds in the municipality's bank account. Six days later, the U.S. Marshal levied $323,022.79 and deposited the funds into the court's registry.

Following the seizure of the funds, the U.S. government and Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas have entered an agreement for installment payment terms that will compromise the outstanding $1.9 million debt and will provide the payment in full within 12 months.

The parties agree that the U.S. government will apply $100,000 of the levied funds toward the outstanding debt. The U.S. government will then file a motion for the remaining $223,022.79 to be returned to the municipality for its operational costs.

San Nicolas and the municipality agree to make minimum monthly payments of $104,114 commencing on March 1, 2016, and continuing on the first of each and every month thereafter until the original principal of $1,349,367 is satisfied.

According to court records, in 2005 the U.S. District Court for the NMI found the Tinian and Aguiguan Municipality liable to pay the federal government for the value of work and materials provided by the U.S. Geological Survey when they were contacted in 1989 by then-Tinian mayor James Mendiola to engage in a water source investigation project.

Over the course of several administrations, the debt owed to the federal government has never been paid.

San Nicolas last Jan. 4 stated that the Tinian leadership now pledges to work collaboratively with the U.S. District Attorney's Office about resolving the outstanding judgment immediately. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $300.90 or $138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $18,054.00.
Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
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Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

Delos Santos: Your mind is a byproduct of your body

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

As a high school student, Audry "Dre" Delos Santos was shy and struggled with his studies. His performance in sports, though, made him a well-known student athlete, who thrived in living a healthy lifestyle, which he remains committed to maintaining.

A 2008 graduate of Mt. Carmel School, Delos Santos, 25, has taken his life-long passion to the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Kinesiology and Rehabilitation. Upon receiving his degree, Delos Santos went on to be a certified personal trainer, strength coach, and even runs his own fitness business last year in Honolulu, Hawaii, DS Pro Fitness.

"It was the best decision I made," he said. Through the process of me trying to become a better athlete, I developed an immense affinity for training and coaching. It was right then and there I knew what I wanted to do."

Delos Santos also volunteered his time to teach physical education to youth in Hawaii for two years and is a contributing writer for the CNMI's *TAGA Sports* magazine, where he shares tips and strategies to lead a health life.

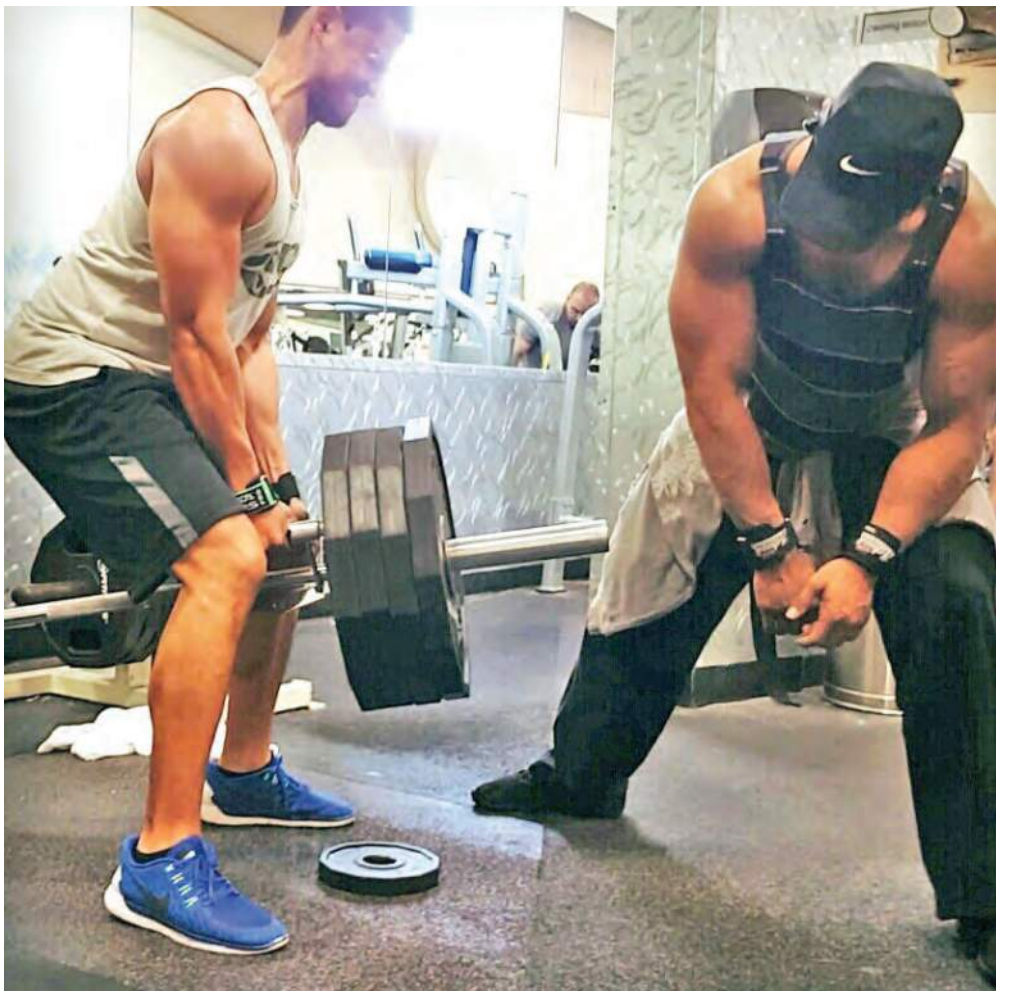
A number of people do not realize how much more productive they can be if health was their No. 1 priority, according to Delos Santos. "Your mind is a byproduct of your body."

Delos Santos attributed his success to his parents, Nenette Delos Santos and Eduardo Olarte, and his alma mater, MCS.

"I went to Mount Carmel School for all 12 years. From an academic standpoint, I wasn't a very good student, so I was fortunate to have great teachers and classmates at Mount Carmel. They really set the bar high."

In the future, Delos Santos hopes to come back to the island to educate residents about the importance of living an active lifestyle.

When asked about his opinion on the state of health in the Commonwealth, he responded, "The tides have changed and I see we're heading in the right direction. However, I do feel there is still a lack of proper instruction, accountability, and consistency with regards to health among the youth in the CNMI…"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dre Delos Santos, left, works out with his training partner at 24-Hour-Fitness in Hawaii.

He added, "My former mentor once told me that people don't care how much you know until they know much you care. Leading by example and showing that you truly care can make the biggest difference not just with the youth, but the entire CNMI community."

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Dr. Hutchison will be on island in February to see new neurology and sleep medicine patients as well as follow-up patients. PSC is now accepting referrals for this visit.

This year, Dr. Tammy Pham (senior neurology resident) will accompany Dr. Hutchison on her visit.

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Special Advertising Feature

THE POWER OF A PHOTOGRAPH

Passion is the compelling emotion that drives a person. Passion inserts into her life whether she has time for it or not. A passionate photographer continues to pursue the simple hobby of clicking that shutter and capturing a story unfolding before her very eyes, despite bad days, bad timing, early mornings, depleted savings, discomfort and exhaustion.

Such was the case personified in all the winners of the photo contest launched post-Soudelor by Best Sunshine International; passion is what has prompted them to tell their own personal story of survival in the midst of dire disadvantage, of resilience and determination in the face of the hardship brought about by the biggest calamity that overcame Saipan. The lack of a professional camera was not a barrier, even with the fact that a certain level of automated advantage is achieved with that. Mostly taken with phone cams and regular cameras, and even with pictures not reaching the highest degrees of quality, the talent lay in portraying the stories that stirred the heart.

Margaret Cui Lijie, Best Sunshine's major shareholder, hosted an intimate gathering at the executive lounge of Fiesta Resort & Spa with the photo contest winners to share with them her own passion for photography. It was an opportunity for Madam Cui to personally thank them for participating in showcasing the true strength and perseverance of the island spirit in the throes of a major crisis.

Best Sunshine International majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie holds an exclusive photo exhibit for the weRcnmi photo contest winners at Fiesta Resort & Spa's executive lounge. The exhibit featured the top 4 winning photos, the 10 finalists, and 9 photos personally taken by majority shareholder Madam Cui.

"I love Saipan; I've been here for about a week and I find the island very gorgeous and impressive", says Madam Cui, to welcome the small crowd gathered for a casual conversation about creative passion, resilience, and togetherness. She adds, "Although I am not a professional in the art of photography, I tried my best to capture my first impressions of Saipan, along with some photographs I took of Beijing and Hong Kong; and I am happy to share my photos with you. My wish is that, together, we can build Saipan, not only from an economic perspective, but also from a cultural perspective."

Madam Cui showcased her photographs of the panoramic view of the famous Bird Island, the imposing frontage of Mount Carmel Cathedral, a personal view of a beautiful sunset taken from the balcony of the Fiesta hotel, as well as her personal photos of China's own sunsets and famous monuments in Beijing such as her scenic blow-ups of Tiananmen and the surroundings of the Imperial City, and a vivid picture of the urban skyline of Hong Kong with its high-rise buildings and skyscrapers.

A poignant moment in the event was when Madam Cui captured the façade of a glass and steel building in commercial Hong Kong, her focal interest not the grandeur of the building itself but of a statue erected outside the building, of a particular flower symbolizing the unification of mainland China and Hong Kong.

Each of the winners took turns in narrating their personal experiences that subsequently produced a winning entry photograph depicting strength and survival after the Soudelor disaster. First Lady Diane Tudela Torres, who attended the event, comments, "I would like to thank BSI for giving the people the opportunity to submit pictures, whether they took those at work or at home, by candlelight, during those times. It shows that we work with what we have. I love photography, I teach a portion of it in my high school course, and when assigning my students to go out there around the campus, I always advise them to put on the photographer's cap and look at things differently. We look forward to having companies like Best Sunshine who come and support to build passion within people to share in experiences such as this."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who graced Saturday's gathering, was particularly touched of how the photography contest mirrored "the resilience of our people are shown in photographic art…and I'm happy that we all came together and came forward after the struggle of the typhoon."

He added, "With over 200 participants, thank you for a great opportunity for our people to capture that moment."

Tao Xing, Best Sunshine's chief service officer, says "I would like to congratulate each of the winners and encourage you to continue to capture the colorful and wonderful daily life of the CNMI."

The stark contrast of two very different landscapes being unified in one intimate share-worthy event proves that we can fuse together two cultures driven by the same passion; the passion to promote Saipan to world-class proportions of quality and beauty. Just as a true photograph need not be explained in words, the commitment of Best Sunshine will evolve and grow with their actions in supporting the island community towards progress.

Two of 10 finalists: Josephine Togawa, left, and Loretta Mary Ann Lagmay, center, alongside third place winner, Frederic Guintu.

Some of the winners pose alongside Best Sunshine International's chief service officer, Tao Xing, majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and first lady Diann Tudela Torres.

Winners of the Best Sunshine International weRcnmi photo contest gathered together in an afternoon conversation with Madam Cui.

Finalists Ponciano Corotan, left, and Andrei Zerkov, right, pose alongside first place winner and press secretary Ivan Blanco.

Governor Torres shares a few words on Saipan's post-Soudelor recovery and resiliency with Best Sunshine International majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijiei and BSI weRcnmi photo contest winners.

First place winner Ivan Blanco shares the story behind his winning photo titled "Makeshift Playground", which features his daughter.

First lady Diann Tudela Torres shares a few words with Best Sunshine International majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijiei and photo contest winners.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 • Facsimile (670)236-9702

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Judiciary's records indicate that there is property held in the Superior Court's third party fiduciary account that has gone unclaimed for a period of one year or more. The apparent owners of this property are:

1. **Maria Victoria S. Trinidad**
2. **Li Zhen Wang**
3. **Su Juan Ni**
4. **Yu Juan Xue**
5. **Dong Mei Guo**
6. **Liezel M. Bordios**
7. **Jesus S. Sablan**
8. **Huawu Cheng**
9. **Perfecto Ramos**
10. **Richard Cartwright**
11. **Ying Jian Shen**
12. **Xia Tang**
13. **Jujun Zhou**
14. **Jerry Manglonzo**
15. **Jun Miao Yuan**
16. **Emiliana Cabalteja**
17. **Rudy K. Dela Cruz**
18. **Jinming Jin**
19. **Danilo Carasig**
20. **Jun Qing Chen**
21. **Wen Jian Zheng**
22. **Yakui Yang**
23. **Hanzhe Xuan**
24. **Gerry B. Malit**
25. **Changjin Cui**
26. **Thomas Aldan Duenas**
27. **Jihong Jin**
28. **Williamito S. Angeles**

Pursuant to the Judiciary Abandoned Funds Act, 1 CMC §§ 30101 - 30103, notice is hereby given of the Judiciary's intent to forfeit this property as it is presumed abandoned. This property is returnable to a person having legal or beneficial interest in the property upon request to the Administrator, Juan Diego V. Tenorio at 236-9700. A request for a return of the property must be made no later than April 12, 2016.

Ex-PTSA official gets 1-year prison term for stealing association funds

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Priscilla Taitano Castro, a former Parent Teacher and Student Association officer, has pleaded guilty of stealing more than $4,000 from association funds and slapped with a one-year prison term.

Castro, a former vice president of Kagman Elementary School's PTSA, signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty last week to the offense of theft.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced the 49-year-old Castro to three years imprisonment, all suspended except one year.

Naraja gave the defendant credit for time served. It means that the defendant will be released from the Department of Corrections on April 6, 2016.

After completing the prison term, Castro will be placed on probation for three years. She was required to pay $4,442.34 in restitution to the PTSA of Kagman Elementary School, a $500 fine, $300 in probation fee, and $100 in court fee.

Castro was also ordered to perform 300 hours of community work service.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Castro stole $4,442.34 belonging to the PTSA of Kagman Elementary School on June 7, 2013 to Sept. 13, 2013.

Office of the Public Auditor investigator Thelma M. Mizer disclosed in her report that Castro, who was president of Kagman PTSA during the 2012-2013 school year, admitted to having spent all of the PTSA's money for her daughter's graduation party, her house, her husband's poker habit, and personal use.

The investigator said Castro also confessed that she pawned the Public School System's Sony Vaio E Series 14 notebook computer for $150 at 24 Hours Pink House Pawn Shop in Chalan Kanoa, to buy food for her family.

Last July, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho rejected a proposed deal for Castro after the judge deemed the three-month prison sentence too lenient.

Camacho noted that Castro is a repeat offender with several criminal cases involving financial crimes such as forgery and extensive civil action/small claim cases involving her failure to live up to her financial obligations.

Camacho enumerated Castro's five criminal cases and 42 small claims and breach of contract/collection cases.

SCS Q2 HONOR ROLL LIST

GRADE 8

Principals List (no grades lower than a "A")
- Lee, Iris
- Park, Esther

"A" Honor Roll3.50-3.99 (no grades below a "B")
- Xie, Nan
- Bacani, Rovin
- Ishida, Kate
- Sablan, John Paul
- Camacho, Desrei
- Seo, Jeffrey

"B" Honor Roll-3.00-3.49 (no grades below a "C")
- Cayetano, Tomjayson
- Toyokawa, Ken Song
- Pierce, Roderick Jarae
- Woo, Seo Yeon

GRADE 7

Principals List- 4.00 (no grades lower than a "A")
- Sablan, Jason

"A" Honor Roll-3.50-3.99 (no grades below a "B")
- Guerrero, Mateo
- Nam, Mark
- Lee, Seung Ju
- Park, James
- Hong, John
- Bacani, Vinson
- Rabago, Maxine

"B" Honor Roll-3.00-3.49 (no grades below a "C")
- Palacios-Camacho, Puti'On
- Lee, Geon Ho
- Ren, Annie

GRADE 6

"A" Honor Roll-3.50-3.99 (no grades below a "B")
- Wu, Shu Qi
- Camacho, Sedrei
- Zhen, Tina
- Paik, Seung Jin

"B" Honor Roll-3.00-3.49 (no grades below a "C")
- Zeng, Moon
- Lee, Seung Won
- Ham, Paul
- Bohman, Devhan

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2016 CCA Board of Directors & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 5:30 PM at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2015 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. Immediately after the annual/financial reports, election of three (3) board members will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or more information contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com

MEETING NOTICE

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Special Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday January 21, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
2) **Old Business**
   1. Offshore Representative Office Procurement
   2. Tourist Exit Survey Contract Renewal
3) **New Business**
   1. Happy Children in Paradise Contract Renewal
   2. Korea Ad Hoc Proposal – Travel Agent FAM
4) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
5) **Executive Session**
6) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0458**
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
DONALD C. CAMACHO, Defendant.	:	

SEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of the original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 29, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of December, 2015:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Qiu wins Hopwood geographic bee

Xiu Zhen Qiu, an 8th grade student from Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Junior High School, has won the school level National Geographic Bee. Qiu competed against 34 other students for the top spot and was followed by Princess Galzote who came in second place.

The National Geographic Bee consisted of seven rigorous rounds of geography based questions. Thousands of schools around the United States and its territories are participating in their own school level 2016 Bee. The school champion will take a qualifying test to determine whether he will be eligible to compete in the state bee on April 1, 2016. State winners will then compete at the National level in Washington, D.C., which will air on the National Geographic Channel and PBS.

The Hopwood Junior High School Geography was administered by Mr. Jesse Sablan, Ms. Jillian Pladevega, and Mrs. Tatiana Olopai with support from Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Junior High School National Geographic Bee competition pose for a group photo.

Military to conduct training at WA-517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Jan. 18-22 from midnight to 11:55pm.

The Air Force will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 19 from 4pm to 10:30pm
- Jan. 20 from 3pm to 9:30pm
- Jan. 21 from 4pm to 10:30pm
- Jan. 22 from 3pm to 9:30pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a meeting on Friday, January 22, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's Office (Conference Room) at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. **PRELIMINARIES:**
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Adoption of Minutes: November 25, 2015
II. **REPORTS:**
   A. Report by the Chairman
   B. Report by the Executive Director
III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
IV. **OLD BUSINESS:**
   A. UNLV International Gaming Institute - Casino Regulatory Enforcement Training
V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
   A. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC - Financial Report (The Grand Mariana Project)
VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
VII. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

Sunshine Garden
RESTAURANT

MAIN DISHES

LIVE LOBSTER
$45 1lb Lobster Only
COMBO
1.5lb. Live Lobster and Baby Back Ribs or St. Louis Spareribs withj 2 cup Toast Salad $80
Live Lobster and Ribs Combo 1lb. Live Lobster and Baby Back Ribs or St. Louis Spareribs with 1 Cup Toast Salad $70

STEAK
New York 12oz. $32
Steak Combo Mahi or Salmon 6oz Tender Loin with Soup $32
Rib Eye 14oz. with Corn Soup $35
Two Side Dishes of Choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of sauce: Sunshine/Bernaise/Demiglaze

RIBS
The Original Baby Back Ribs
Full Slab 10-12 bones $30
Baby Back Ribs 9-10 bones $28
Half Baby Back Ribs 6-7 bones $16
Full Slab Spare Ribs 10-12 bones $27
Half Slab Spare Ribs 5-6 bones $15
Two side dishes of choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of Sauce: Regular BBQ Sauce/Hickory Brown Sauce/ Smoky Sauce

BURGER
Cheese Burger $10
8oz. Patty with cut Cello Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles with Mushroom Sauce
Triple Cheese Burger $12
Monterey Jack Cheddar and Provolone
Sides: One Side Dish of Choice: French Fries, Corn/Broccoli/Rice

COMBO MEAL

Beef Stroganof $12

Chamorro Sausage with Mushroom $10

Stir-Fried Tofu $8

Hot & Spicy Noodle Soup $10

Combo Set $12
Pizza ($11)

Steak/Flank $10

Cheese Burger $10

Chicken Tandoorie $10

Cordon Bleu $16

South Western Chicken $12

Beef Bulgogi $12

Fried Porkchop $10

Combo Seafood $12

Beef Salpecao $10

Calzoni $11

Hawaiian Pizza

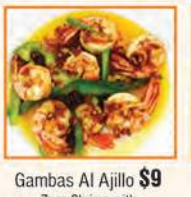
Vegetarian Pizza 12"

Four Kind of Cheese Pizza

APPETIZERS

Chicken Wings $8
With Green Bedding Vegetable
Choice of Sauce: Shriracha or Buffalo

Potato Skin $6
Cheese, Bacon and Green Onion



Gambas Al Ajillo $9
7pcs Shrimp with Chili Pepper

Breaded Calamari $9

Sunshine Nachos $9
Tomato, Onion, Cheese, Ground Beef, Sour Cream, Guacamole

Bruschetta $5
French Bread, Tomatoes, Basil Leaves

French Bread with Peas Pesto $5

SALADS

Toast Salad $8
With Tomato, Cucumber and Black Olive.
Dressing: Thousand Islands, Honey Mustard, French, Vinaigrette, Ranch

Caesar Salad $8
With Lettuce, Bacon Bits, Cheese

Grilled Shrimp $14
Grilled Chicken $12
Dressing: Caesar Dressing

SOUP

Clam Chowder $3
Bake Potato Soup $3

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 11

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

What type of president takes all our problems, and gives us a bunch of happy talk ?!
Ronald Reagan?
OBAMA STATE OF THE UNION
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EDITORIAL

The surge in the abortion wars

In the six months or so since anti-abortion activists unleashed a barrage of deceptive videos falsely accusing Planned Parenthood of trafficking in fetal tissue for profit, women's reproductive rights have been under siege.

Extremists have firebombed abortion clinics and torn them apart with hatchets. Clinic doctors have been targeted with online death threats.

"I'll pay ten large to whomever kills Dr. Deborah Nucatola," read a typical post, referring to a Planned Parenthood physician taped discussing fetal tissue donations, which are legal and crucial to medical research. "Planned Parenthood needs to be blown into hell," another read.

In the month after the first video was released, clinics reported 849 incidents of vandalism, a 900 percent increase, according to a complaint Planned Parenthood filed Thursday. Security incidents in California offices have quintupled since July. One Planned Parenthood staffer was picketed at her California home during the holidays by demonstrators singing Christmas carols; later, her neighbors found their mailboxes stuffed with hate literature about her. The Planned Parenthood website was hacked.

The organization has spent millions on security, repairs and lawyers. At least 18 states and several congressional committees have had to be convinced — successfully, so far — that Planned Parenthood engaged in no wrongdoing.

Not that that mattered to the madman accused of killing three people at a Colorado clinic during Thanksgiving weekend because, as he later told authorities, he was "a warrior for the babies" out to stop supposed dealing in "baby parts."

Planned Parenthood sued this week in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, accusing the Center for Medical Progress and its leaders of conspiring to defraud the contraception and abortion provider and undermine women's health care access.

The complaint — which names, among others, the project's young leader David Daleiden, activist Albin Rhomberg and accomplices — charges that they violated federal privacy and racketeering statutes and engaged in wire fraud, mail fraud, trespassing, identity theft and illegal recording.

Planned Parenthood claims Daleiden and company lied to the Internal Revenue Service and the California secretary of state to get tax exempt status for the fake company they used to talk their way into Planned Parenthood meetings. And once in, the complaint alleges, they used hidden cameras to record hundreds of hours of private conversations in violation of California, Maryland and Florida statutes.

The suit isn't the only litigation out there. The National Abortion Federation also has sued Daleiden's group for breach of confidentiality and invasion of privacy. And the outrage makes sense. The video smear and the grandstanding around it has caused immeasurable damage, not just to a valuable nonprofit, but to human beings who have lost reputations, security and, in at least three cases, their lives.

But this won't be the last word. The U.S. Supreme Court is about to hear its first major abortion case in nearly a de-

See WARS on Next Page

MLK Jr. day

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune*.*

It was the summer of '67 when I visited my cousin's host family outside Chicago where she lived when she came to the U.S. as a high school exchange student from San Esteban, Ilocos Sur of Pea Eye. My coz' Caucasian sister later became a "rebel" student dropping out of the U-C campus of the University of Illinois where she skipped her elder sisters' Sorority tradition, and dated a black guy from Washington, D.C. to symbolize her lily-white upbringing in Glen Ellyn as inadequate.

Bill Ayers, co-founder of the radical Weatherman Organization was a member of her church, raised in her neighborhood, his Dad a prominent financier in a Chicago bank. He went underground as a fugitive until the statutes of limitations allowed him to re-emerge and became a legal activist, to the delight and consternation of not a few in Washington, DC.

One summer, my coz' host mother stood by their doorway as it became obvious that her daughter and I took serious accounts of each other, and whispered: "look how dark he is!" My wife might have married me just for that domestic editorial!

My coz' sister became my girl friend after she went to school in Greensboro, NC where the Civil Rights sit-ins started. On a February day 1968, I marched in Washington, D.C. to Arlington Cemetery as a young Seminary student of Perkins School of Theology, SMU in Dallas to protest LBJ's Vietnam War that siphoned resources for the War on Poverty, close to the civil rights movement led by a Baptist cleric MLK Jr.

Early April, while I was in a car accident in Dallas, MLK Jr. came down with a bullet at dusk while standing outside a motel in Memphis, Tennessee. From the SMU Health Center bed where I was confined, I watched U.S. cities burn in the aftermath of the civil right leader's assassination. Then I received a phone call from my sobbing girl friend in Greensboro as gunshots popped on the background and flames engulfed the city.

The event drew Mary Lou and I closer, and shortly on a December day of '68 in VA, we exchanged vows of connubial existence that gave us two daughters who now have two boys each that call me *lao ye ye* (grandpa). The sisters endured their Mom and Dad's style of temporary dwellings in the North America of Canada and the U.S., the Marshall Islands and Guam of Micronesia, the Philippines, and Hawaii, occasionally looked after by colleagues while we romped promoting our brand of human development to villages around the world.

It was at our wedding that I learned of Loving vs. Virginia, a Supreme Court decision only a year before outlawing the State of VA's prohibition on mixed marriages, aka, miscegenation (e.g., white marrying black). Proud to be born beautifully brown, I was considered "colored" like the descendants of black slaves of Africa in the deep South that rent the Union into a civil war a century earlier, and cost the life of Abe Lincoln.

MLK Jr. served as an icon for the civil rights movement. I also know of "unknowns" unheralded for the scars they suffered, snarled and bitten, clawed, and barked at by German shepherds unleashed by law enforcement officials on marchers during the heyday of protests in Mississippi and Alabama, like Selma.

I have a picture of Cinta Kaipat, Kenneth Govendo, John Hill, Ambrose Bennett, et al, in front of the AMP visitors' center to commemorate MLK Jr.'s Day. I dubbed the Baptist Rev as Martin the King with no trace of disrespect but with clarity that the cleric only an inch taller than I pulled his pants in the morning one leg at a time, like everyone else, but managed to leave an indelible cause in the minds of his generation without the stern granite profile that now graces the Washington Mall by the tidal basin.

Civil rights ensure peoples' physical and mental integrity, life and safety, protect them from discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, religion, or disability; individually, it protects privacy and the freedoms of thought and conscience, speech and expression, religion and assembly, the press and movement. The parson from Georgia occupied a larger than life image on that score.

I was 23 when at 39, he caught his final gasp of air that emboldened and ignored Asian-American indignities I suffered in a racist society that glorifies the virtues of the Aryan race. Adolf Hitler whose swastika graces many a home deluded America's for white only pretensions. Trump has become ISIS recruitment poster boy.

Bernie Sanders talks liberal, Hillary waits her turn at the WH after BHO crossed the color line and she, gender, but lily-white patriarchy is America's home paradigm. Trump embodies Jamestown, the Puritans and the Pilgrims that start NA history in textbooks though the Mongols crossed the Bering Straits long before a Norwegian navigator lent his name to the place, consigned to reservations, formally discriminated in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 repealed only in 1943.

Not on hero worship, but TY to Martin the King.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Remember King's commitment to doing what's right

By DARRYL LORENZO WELLINGTON
Tribune News Service

Darryl Lorenzo Wellington is a poet and critic living in Santa Fe, N.M. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive *magazine.*

On Monday, we commemorate the life and death of Martin Luther King Jr., who extolled the transformative power of self-sacrifice and love, and led a movement which indelibly contributed to tearing down the walls of legal segregation.

King's work called attention to the inherent injustice of racial and economic segregation as well as discriminatory housing laws and employment practices. His commitment to nonviolence exemplified a form of activism that was devoted to practical goals, while guided by the better angels of human nature.

Over the past few years, American politics has been riddled by mean-spirited partisanship, even bigotry. It seems certain that King would have been dismayed.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is drumming up support by demeaning Latinos, Muslims and women. Video technology has exposed commonplace police brutality directed against African-Americans.

King would, undoubtedly, have supported the Black Lives Matter movement against police brutality. Racism in the criminal justice system was after all an issue in his lifetime.

"We can never be satisfied as long as the negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality," King said.

King faulted racism and poverty for most social ills. He strongly disbelieved in "blaming the victim." He disapproved of rioting, but called it "the language of the unheard," and an act of desperation. He asked that society sympathize with victims, but condemn slums, poverty and unemployment.

Today, when critics attempt to portray Black Lives Matter activists as "rioters" (though the demonstrations have been largely peaceful), King would have responded that the movement's critics are avoiding the real issue of systemic injustice.

No doubt King would have decried recent tragic mass shootings and the failure to pass even limited gun control measures in Congress.

Early in his life, before becoming committed to nonviolence, King owned a weapon. But he gave it up, as his belief grew in "the value of compassion and nonviolence" that "helps us to see the enemy's point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves." Given his belief in conflict resolution and transformational nonviolence, King would have wanted to see America become a society with as few guns as possible.

In his day, King promoted a massive readjustment of national expenditures. He believed that excessive military spending siphoned money from programs at home. He hoped to see "a reordering our priorities so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war."

King opposed the Vietnam War and other American military interventions on the grounds that they were fruitless, inhumane and fiscally wasteful. "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death," he said.

There can be no doubt that King would have had similar criticisms of foreign wars and military interventions today.

King admonished his own generation on the pressing need to undo racism, and he will continue to admonish future generations: "The time is always right to do what is right."

Professor Obama's lesson for candidate Clinton

By DICK MEYER
Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC *(www.newsnet5.com/decodedc).*

Barry Obama arrived at Columbia University too late to encounter professor Richard Hofstadter personally. But the great historian's mark was clear in the president's recent lecture on political philosophy, also known as the State of the Union address.

Hofstadter is one of the most quoted and influential American historians, especially his writings on America's darker political currents and what he called the "paranoid style in American politics." In eulogy, historian C. Vann Woodward said, "As a historian he devoted much of his attention to the odd, the warped, the zanies, and the crazies of American life — left, right, and middle."

The 2016 campaign is a zenith for zanies of the nativist, right-wing sort.

For a weird flash, Ben Carson rode high on the river of voter wrath but Ted Cruz snatched that wave. Donald Trump, obviously, is the riverboat king of the dark demagogues. They all regurgitate the warped populist formulas Hofstadter identified back in the McCarthy era: scapegoating minorities, conspiracy theories, apocalyptic rhetoric and fear mongering.

"The paranoid spokesman sees the fate of conspiracy in apocalyptic terms — he traffics in the birth and death of whole worlds, whole political orders, whole systems of human values," Hofstadter wrote in 1964. "He is always manning the barricades of civilization." Trump and Cruz fit the mold, preaching that America is in lethal crisis.

President Obama's State of the Union treatise was a plain-spoken but profound argument meant to defang the demagogues and defend pragmatism. It also was an important lesson for Hillary Clinton.

Obama made the obvious but overlooked point that the doomsday hype Cruz and Trump hawk is paranoid. He said, for example, "The United States of America, right now, has the strongest, most durable economy in the world. We're in the middle of the longest streak of private-sector job creation in history."

"Anyone claiming that America's economy is in decline is peddling fiction," he added.

Then, for the first time in a major speech, Obama said that the threat to Americans from foreign terrorism has been exaggerated.

"The United States of America is the most powerful nation on Earth. Period. It's not even close," Obama said.

Then he stated another obvious truth that politicians, including him, have dared not utter.

"(A)s we focus on destroying ISIL, over-the-top claims that this is World War III just play into their hands," Obama said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. "Masses of fighters on the back of pickup trucks and twisted souls plotting in apartments or garages pose an enormous danger to civilians and must be stopped. But they do not threaten our national existence."

Republican zanies cynically prey on that fear, attach it to the economic and cultural anger that's boiling in an irate, mostly white minority, and then persecute immigrants, liberals, Muslims, political correctness, Mexicans and big government as the evils responsible.

The Republican "establishment" hasn't had the guts or brains to launch a full-frontal attack on that fringe. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley did fire a few shots from a high-profile perch, the GOP response to the State of the Union.

"Today, we live in a time of threats like few others in recent memory," she said. "During anxious times, it can be tempting to follow the siren call of the angriest voices. We must resist that temptation."

Obama's lesson made a similar point but with a more far reaching warning — and a mea culpa.

He bluntly said our political system isn't up to the job at hand: rebuilding public trust, curbing toxic partisanship, balancing the power of society's most privileged and re-engaging voters. He apologized for not doing more to fix it and warned that politics can descend even lower:

"Those with money and power will gain greater control over the decisions that could send a young soldier to war, or allow another economic disaster, or roll back the equal rights and voting rights that generations of Americans have fought, even died, to secure. As frustration grows, there will be voices urging us to fall back into tribes, to scapegoat fellow citizens who don't look like us, or pray like us, or vote like we do, or share the same background."

In other words, dark populism can get a whole lot worse than Trump and Cruz, as Europe well knows. In 2016, a substantial faction is in the fervent throws of anger politics.

But the majority of Americans are disgusted and worried by that. Ministering to those voters, providing a simple, sensible and competent alternative should be the organizing principle of Hillary Clinton's campaign, which currently has positions and tactics galore but no guiding light.

Obama provided just that in his final address from the House. The Clinton campaign should embrace it, quickly.

The message from all the Republicans is doom, gloom and blame. The sensible response is perspective: America today simply isn't in peril. It is as powerful, safe, prosperous, talented, diverse and democratic as any nation has ever been. Stop scaring one of the luckiest populations on the planet. It is from this position of strength that the country can address the serious problems Hillary wants to focus on.

Hillary can't win by making herself more popular; she's been around too long for that. She can't pass herself off as a reformer or the nemesis of Wall Street and the 1 percent. She and her husband have plucked those golden eggs for far too long. She can't play the happy, smiley populist.

But she can follow Obama's lesson plan: Destroy the GOP's Voldemort vision, champion America's growing, diverse communities and offer a seasoned, battle-tested hand to help a healthy nation confront serious challenges with competence if not charisma.

The test is scheduled for Nov. 8. Hofstadter's books are easy to find.

WARS

From Page 12

cade, one that could greatly restrict access. Statehouses around the country, meanwhile, are reconsidering "fetal personhood," urged by pro-life legal groups with model legislation.

And in pro-choice California, moneyed conservatives from out of state have suddenly materialized as backers for a perennial parental notification initiative that in years past went nowhere. Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan of Michigan and New York hedge fund manager Sean Fieler have alone given at least $850,000.

Records show the money has been spent on gathering the signatures needed to qualify for the November ballot and for robocalls featuring Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina and Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Adrian Gonzalez. But some also has gone to a dark money specialist in Ohio who helps campaigns hide donor identities.

In short, this war is poised for resurgence, even amid a near-historic low in abortion rates. Lawsuits aren't much, but maybe this will shed light on who's bankrolling this divisive and apparently coordinated attempt to roll back Roe v. Wade, which gave women the right to decide when and whether to bear children 43 years ago next week.

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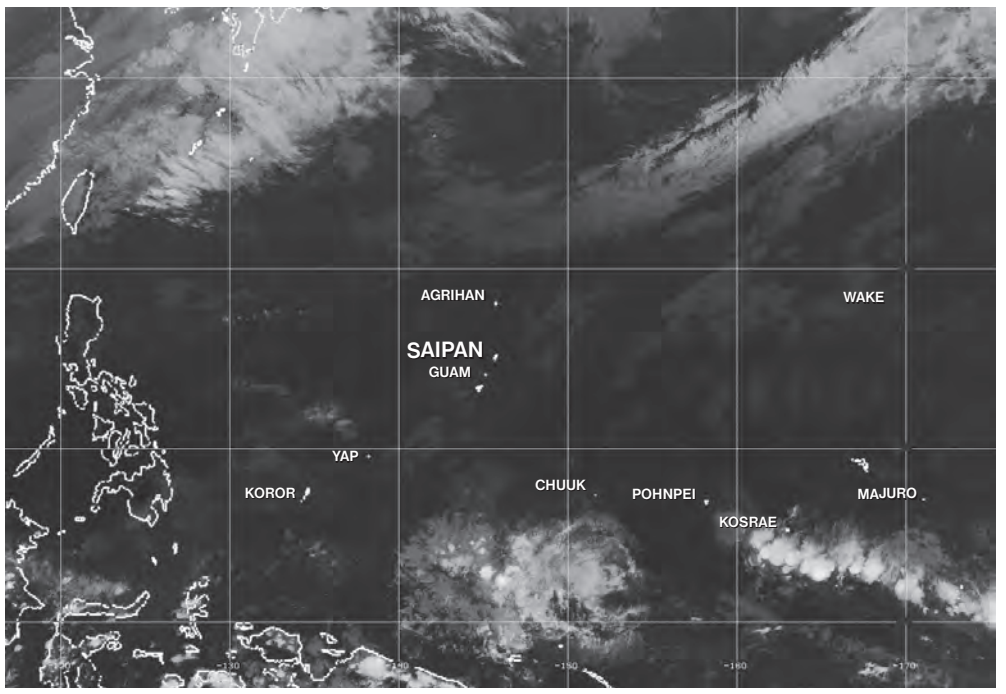
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from northwest of Wake Island at 25N163E to end at about 20N140E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 250 miles north of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk between 5N and 2N from 148E to 153E. Widely scattered showers are also southeast of Yap between 9N and the equator from 142E to 148E. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from southwest of Kosrae at 4N160E to southeast of Tarawa near the equator at EQ173E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across kosrae state and Tarawa are within 125 miles of a line from 5N160E to 2N173E to 2N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Thundershowers	▲77	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲28	▼ 8
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼59
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84	▼69
London	Cloudy	▲40	▼31
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼73
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲98	▼63
Miami	Thundershowers	▲76	▼55
New York	Cloudy	▲38	▼27
Osaka	Rain	▲53	▼36
Paris	Cloudy	▲35	▼30
Pusan	Windy	▲41	▼19
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼34
Salem	Rain	▲49	▼41
San Francisco	Rain	▲60	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲26	▼ 6
Tokyo	Rain	▲51	▼37
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲40	▼23

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:58 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
2:13 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
9:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:01 PM	12:59 AM
Tuesday	1:52 PM	1:56 AM
Wednesday	2:44 PM	2:54 AM
Thursday	3:38 PM	3:52 AM
Friday	4:33 PM	4:48 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

DHS enhances opportunities for nonimmigrant classifications

WASHINGTON—The Department of Homeland Security amended its regulations to improve the programs serving the H-1B1, E-3 and CW-1 nonimmigrant classifications and the EB-1 immigrant classification, and remove unnecessary hurdles that place such workers at a disadvantage when compared to similarly situated workers in other visa classifications.

This final rule, posted to the Federal Register last Friday and effective on Feb. 16, revises regulations affecting highly skilled workers in the nonimmigrant classifications for specialty occupations from Chile, Singapore (H-1B1) and Australia (E-3); the immigrant classification for employment-based first preference (EB-1) outstanding professors and researchers; and nonimmigrant workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) classification.

Specifically, this final rule amends DHS regulations as described below:

DHS is including H-1B1 and principal E-3 classifications in the list of classes of foreign nationals authorized for employment incident to status with a specific employer. This means that H-1B1 and principal E-3 nonimmigrants are allowed to work for the sponsoring employer without having to separately apply for employment authorization.

DHS is authorizing continued employment with the same employer for up to 240 days for H-1B1 and principal E-3 nonimmigrants whose status has expired while their employer's timely filed extension of stay request remains pending.

DHS is providing this same continued employment authorization for CW-1 nonimmigrants whose status has expired while their employer's timely filed Form I-129CW, Petition for a CNMI-Only Nonimmigrant Transitional Worker, request for an extension of stay remains pending.

Existing regulations on the filing procedures for extensions of stay and change of status requests now include principal E-3 and H-1B1 nonimmigrant classifications.

Employers petitioning for EB-1 outstanding professors and researchers may now submit initial evidence comparable to the other forms of evidence already listed in 8 CFR 204.5(i)(3)(i), much like certain employment-based immigrant categories that already allow for submission of comparable evidence.

This final rule does not impose any additional costs on employers, workers or any governmental entity. Further, changing the employment authorization regulations for H-1B1 and E-3 nonimmigrants makes them consistent with other similarly situated nonimmigrant worker classifications. Additionally, this rule minimizes the potential of employment disruptions for U.S. employers of H-1B1, E-3 and CW-1 nonimmigrant workers. Finally, DHS expects that this change will help U.S. employers recruit EB-1 outstanding professors and researchers by expanding the range of evidence that U.S. employers may provide to support their petitions.

"We constantly strive to improve our processes and ensure fair and consistent access to immigration benefits," U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director León Rodríguez said. "This Enhancing Opportunities rule removes unnecessary hurdles that place workers at a disadvantage and will be beneficial to both employers and their workers."

For more information on USCIS and its programs or about this rule, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Facebook (/uscis), Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis) and the USCIS blog The Beacon. ***(USCIS)***

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Position Title: Hospitality Administrative Specialist (Chinese Marketing)

Position Summary:
The Hospitality Administrative Specialist (Chinese Marketing) works with all aspects of administrative management, budget management, operational strategizing, contracts, financials, directory maintenance, logistics, purchasing, equipment inventory and storage.

Salary: USD 32,830 – USD 52,870 **Number of openings: 3**

Duties:
Arranges schedules of meetings, creates spreadsheets and presentations, accounting and financial reports, interprets and translates reports between English and Mandarin. Establish and implement departmental policies, goals, objectives and procedures, conferring with board members, organization officials and staff members as necessary. Review financial statements, sales and activity reports, and other performance data to measure productivity goal achievement and to determine areas needing cost reduction and project improvement. Monitor businesses and agencies to ensure that they efficiently and effectively provide needed services all staying within budgetary limits. Schedule meetings, interviews, events and other similar activities. Prepares and finalizes business correspondence (often using word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation computer software). Supports recruiting in the sales process and assists in the identification of new business. Frequently visits existing and potential customers. Ensures a positive customer service perception and reinforces a value added proposition to customers. Ensures self and team are capturing and cultivating customer loyalty. Ensure all new hires are properly onboarded after hire, including appropriate training. Partner with the Human Resources Department when needed to work through challenging conflicts. Creates, coordinates and implements plans to achieve week overweek sales growth. Manage inventory of assets and supplies, and receive reports of stocks and supplies from assistants. Coordinate between departments and operating units in resolving daily administrative and operational problems. Answer phone calls and direct calls to appro- private parties or take messages. Attend meetings to record minutes. Greet visitors and determine whether they should be given access to specific individuals. Read and analyze incoming memos, submissions, and reports to determine their significance and plan their distribution. File and retrieve corporate documents, records, and reports. Open, sort, and distribute incoming correspondence, including faxes and email. Prepare responses to correspondence containing routine inquiries. Manage and maintain executives schedules.

Qualifications:
Associate's degree or equivalent work experience. Minimum of three (3) or more years of experience in clerical or document handling, minimum of two (2) years in accounting work or education. Hospitality Management, Business Administration/Management, Commerce, Accounting, Hotel Management background is preferred. Ability to read, analyze, and interpret documents, such as policy procedure manuals, and other related documents. Able to communicate effectively in English and Mandarin (Written/Spoken).

To apply for this position, you are required to email your detailed resume to recruitment@bestsunshine.co or drop off an application to the Best Sunshine Office located on the 3rd floor of the Bank of Guam building in Garapan.

Closing date: January 16, 2016

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

MEETING NOTICE

Technical Project Planning Meeting

Former Tanapag Fuel Farm Above Ground Storage Tank Removal Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces that it will convene a Technical Project Planning meeting to engage public participation regarding the Former Tanapag Fuel Farm Above Ground Storage Tank (AST) Removal project. A presentation has been prepared to provide an overview of the AST removal process and cleanup standards at the former AST locations.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to receive your comments and to answer your questions regarding elements of the project.

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 21, 2016
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm
Tanapag Middle School Cafeteria
Tanapag, Saipan, CNMI

You may also submit written comments regarding the project to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu Engineer District
Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental Branch
Building 230
CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Fax: 808-835-4129.
E-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

High surf complicating Hawaii search as Marines ID officers

HALEIWA, Hawaii (AP)—Rescuers battled waves up to 30 feet Saturday as they searched for 12 Marines who are missing after two helicopters crashed off the Hawaiian island of Oahu.

The waves dispersed the debris and complicated the search, which was expanded to include waters off Oahu's west coast. "It makes finding things incredibly difficult," Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Scott Carr said.

Winds died down to about 10 mph, but the National Weather Service said a high surf warning would remain in effect through Sunday morning.

The Coast Guard was notified late Thursday of the crash by a civilian who saw the aircraft flying then disappear and a fireball. Someone else reported a flare in the sky, Carr said. It was not clear if the fireball and the flare were the same.

AP

A U.S. Marine walks on the beach at Waimea Bay near Haleiwa, Hawaii, where two military helicopters crashed into the ocean about 2 miles offshore, Friday, Jan. 15, 2016.

The Marines were alerted when the CH-53E helicopters carrying six crew members each failed to return to their base at Kaneohe Bay following a nighttime training mission. Hours later, a Coast Guard helicopter and C-130 airplane spotted debris 2 1/2 miles off of Oahu.

A Navy P-3 airplane was scouring the ocean, along with helicopters from the Coast Guard, Army, Navy and Honolulu police and fire departments. Two Navy warships and two Coast Guard cutters were on the scene. Honolulu lifeguards on personal watercraft were also looking.

The Coast Guard was keeping people out of a wide zone that spanned about 30 miles of shoreline, citing danger from debris. The zone extended from the shore to 8 miles off the coast.

National Weather Service meteorologist Derek Wroe said Saturday that the surf peaked Friday afternoon and was slowly declining.

A storm about 1,500 miles to the north and northwest of Oahu was sending large swells to the islands, he said.

The transport helicopters were part of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Known as Super Stallions, they are the U.S. military's largest helicopter, capable of carrying a light armored vehicle, 16 tons of cargo or a team of combat-equipped Marines, according to a Marine Corps website.

The Coast Guard initially reported that the choppers had collided, but Marine Capt. Timothy Irish said Friday that he did not know if the accident was a collision.

The helicopters normally carry four crew members, but this particular flight also carried one or two instructor trainers, Irish said. He did not know if they were teaching the crew or just observing.

On Saturday evening, the U.S. Marine Corps released the names of the missing officers. They are:

- Maj. Shawn M. Campbell, 41, College Station, Texas.
- Capt. Brian T. Kennedy, 31, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Capt. Kevin T. Roche, 30, St. Louis, Missouri.
- Capt. Steven R. Torbert, 29, Florence, Alabama.
- Sgt. Dillon J. Semolina, 24,Chaska, Minnesota.
- Sgt. Adam C. Schoeller, 25, Gardners, Pennsylvania.
- Sgt. Jeffrey A. Sempler, 22, Woodruff, South Carolina.
- Sgt. William J. Turner, 25, Florala, Alabama.
- Cpl. Matthew R. Drown, 23, Spring, Texas.
- Cpl. Thomas J. Jardas, 22, Fort Myers, Florida.
- Cpl. Christopher J. Orlando, 23, Hingham, Massachusetts.
- Lance Cpl. Ty L. Hart, 21, Aumsville, Oregon.

The family of Cpl. Christopher Orlando of Hingham, Massachusetts, said it was grateful for people's prayers. "We continue to monitor the ongoing search effort in Hawaii and are thankful for the hard work of the many federal and local heroes undertaking this search and rescue mission," the family said in a statement released by the Massachusetts State Police.

Ty Hart, a 21-year-old from Oregon, was in one of the helicopters, the Oregonian reported Friday night. The newspaper said Hart lives on base in Hawaii with his wife.

Hart's former high school football coach and teacher, Alan Kirby, described Hart as a positive kid who always had a smile on his face and called him a quick learner on the gridiron.

The family of Capt. Kevin Roche believes he was one of the Marines aboard the helicopters.

"We believe the Marines and Coast Guard are doing everything they can to bring Kevin and his fellow Marines home safely, and we are grateful to everyone involved in the rescue," said a family statement distributed by brother-in-law Anthony Kuenzel in St. Louis.

Naval Base Guam hosts 7 Japanese ships

SANTA RITA, Guam—A total of seven Japanese ships of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force pulled into the port of Apra Harbor, U.S. Naval Base Guam, on Friday to conduct an exercise simply called Guam Exercise.

The JMSDF ships include six destroyers and a destroyer command ship with helicopter landing pad. Although the U.S. is not participating in this exercise, despite having participated back in July 2014, the port at Apra Harbor was a suitable mooring port.

These ships include the destroyers: *Kirisame* (DD-104), *JS Inazuma* (DD-105), *Samidare* (DD-106), *Shimakaze* (DD-172), *Chokai* (DDG-176) and *Suzutsuki* (DD-117); and command ship: *JS Ise* (DDH-182).

The seven ships, part of the Japan Maritime Defense Force, will operate off the coast of Guam for the next couple of days likely practicing naval gunnery, anti-submarine warfare, tactical maneuvering, adaptability in a maritime environment, communication drills and personnel exchanges. While not practicing interoperability with other U.S. ships this time, the use of Apra Harbor sends a clear message of the port's capacity, capability and readiness to support naval warfighting vessels.

"The port at Apra Harbor has been the focus of a great deal of revitalization over the past five years or so," said Dan Quicho, director of Port Operations at NBG. "We currently have the largest wharf (Victor Wharf) in the Pacific, ready to moor an entire expeditionary strike group, and adjacent wharves have been refurbished with state of the art utilities for visiting ships. We are excited to be able to host these Japanese ships, and it only shows how capable of a naval base we are here in Guam. We will surge our capacity and capability once again in March of this year for a joint exercise with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force called 'Multi-Sail 2016.'" ***(PR)***

A total of seven Japanese ships of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force pulled into the port of Apra Harbor, U.S. Naval Base Guam, on Friday to conduct an exercise simply called Guam Exercise.

U.S. NAVAL BASE PA/COMMUNICATIONS

Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force Rear Admiral Hiroshi Ito disembarks from the destroyer command ship JS Ise (DDH-182) for the start of an exercise off Guam's coastal waters.

U.S. NAVAL BASE PA/COMMUNICATIONS

$18.3M in remaining '16 operational funding to American Samoa released

WASHINGTON, D.C.—This week the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina released $18.3 million remaining in grant assistance for fiscal year 2016 to the American Samoa Government through the Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) Operations Grant Program.

These funds are what remained of the annual $22.75 million needed to support the daily operations of the American Samoa Government, the LBJ Tropical Medical Center, the American Samoa Community College, and the High Court of American Samoa. The annual operations grant for American Samoa funds the difference between the island's budget needs and locally-generated revenue and remains constant each year to support government operations.

"These funds are critical to supporting the operating costs of the judiciary, the hospital, and the public schools for the American Samoan government," said Assistant Secretary Kia'aina. "Interior has a long history with American Samoa and we are pleased to support Governor Lolo and the people of American Samoa."

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Office of Insular Affairs mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. ***(OIA)***

Business

Wal-Mart to shutter 269 stores, 154 of them in US

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart is doing some rare pruning.

The world's largest retailer is closing 269 stores, including 154 in the U.S. that includes all of its locations under its smallest-format concept store called Wal-Mart Express. The other big chunk is in its challenging Brazilian market.

The stores being shuttered account for a fraction of the company's 11,000 stores worldwide and less than 1 percent of its global revenue. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said the store closures will affect 16,000 workers, 10,000 of them in the U.S. Its global workforce is 2.2 million, 1.4 million in the U.S. alone.

The store closures will start at the end of the month. The announcement comes three months after Wal-Mart Stores Inc. CEO Doug McMillon told investors that the world's largest retailer would review its fleet of stores with the goal of becoming more nimble in the face of increased competition from all fronts, including from online rival Amazon.com.

AP

In this Thursday, June 4, 2015, photo, shoppers walk from the checkout at a Wal-Mart Supercenter store in Springdale, Ark.

"Actively managing our portfolio of assets is essential to maintaining a healthy business," McMillon said in a statement. "Closing stores is never an easy decision. But it is necessary to keep the company strong and positioned for the future."

Obama proposes new unemployment insurance plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Saturday proposed changes to the U.S. unemployment insurance system that he says would offer more security to the jobless and encourage experienced workers to rejoin the workforce, even if it means taking a pay cut.

"We shouldn't just be talking about unemployment; we should be talking about reemployment," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address.

The president's proposal would require states to provide wage insurance to workers who lose their jobs and find new employment at lower pay. The insurance would replace half of the lost income, up to $10,000 over two years. It would be available to workers who were with their prior employer for three years and make less than $50,000 in their new job.

The proposal also would require states to make unemployment insurance available to many part-time and low-income workers, and it would mandate that states provide at least 26 weeks of unemployment insurance. Nine states fall short of the benchmark, the White House said.

The proposal comes as U.S. businesses, outside the manufacturing sector, are experiencing strong demand and adding employees. A recent government employment report showed that employers added a net 292,000 jobs in December as the unemployment rate held at 5 percent.

Obama has begun claiming some credit for this progress, hoping to push back against Republican presidential candidates he says are talking down the economy. But the White House also has acknowledged the many jobs added since the recovery are lower paying, and many Americans continue to see no wage growth.

Obama said Saturday he believed his proposal would provide some stability for workers willing to switch careers and begin working their way up the ladder in a new field.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China-led Asian infrastructure bank opens for business

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese-led bank intended to finance railways and other cargo links throughout Asia opened for business at a ceremony led by President Xi Jinping. Representatives of 57 member countries of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank attended the ceremony Saturday, at which China pledged $50 million to a special fund to prepare less developed countries for infrastructure projects. The United States and Japan are not members of the AIIB, which some see as a potential rival to the Western-led World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Washington has said it welcomes the additional financing for development but had expressed concern looser lending standards might undercut efforts by existing institutions to promote environmental and other safeguards. Chinese officials have said the bank will complement existing institutions and promised to adhere to international lending standards.

Greece seeks German know-how to tackle tax evasion

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece has turned to a German state government to seek help in combating tax evasion. Greek tax officials, initially numbering about 50, will be trained by the tax authorities of North Rhine-Westphalia, a state noted for its success in persuading German citizens to repatriate capital they had whisked abroad to avoid taxation. Their efforts have resulted in 1 billion euros ($1.09 billion) in extra revenue since 2010. If Greek authorities request it, German tax inspectors will visit Greece to investigate cases, North Rhine-Westphalia's finance minister, Norbert Walter-Borjans, said Saturday in Athens. He met with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and signed an agreement for the exchange of data and know-how. Last November, Walter-Borjans handed Greek authorities a list of about 10,400 Greek citizens who had Swiss bank accounts.

Nation

Obama signs emergency order over Flint water

DETROIT (AP)—President Barack Obama signed an emergency declaration Saturday that clears the way for federal aid for Flint, Michigan, which is undergoing a drinking water crisis.

The White House also said the Federal Emergency Management Agency will coordinate all disaster relief efforts to "alleviate the hardship and suffering" on residents. FEMA has been authorized to provide water, filters, cartridges and other items for 90 days. Flint can get up to $5 million in direct funding, though the state must match 25 percent and more money can come through an act of Congress.

Republican Gov. Rick Snyder requested emergency and disaster declarations late Thursday, saying needs "far exceed the state's capability," and added that emergency measures could cost $41 million. Snyder said Saturday that Obama denied the disaster declaration request based on the legal requirement that such relief is intended for natural events, fires, floods or explosions. Despite the legal limitation, the governor is considering an appeal to exhaust "every opportunity to provide resources" for residents, Snyder spokesman Dave Murray said.

Obama

The tap water in Flint, population 99,000, became contaminated after the city switched from the Detroit water system to the Flint River while a pipeline to Lake Huron is under construction. The corrosive water lacked adequate treatment and caused lead to leach from old pipes in homes and schools.

Flint returned to the Detroit system in October after elevated lead levels were discovered in children, and could tap into the new pipeline by summer. But officials remain concerned that old pipes could continue to leach lead, to which exposure can cause behavior problems and learning disabilities in children as well as kidney ailments in adults.

Tennessee Powerball winners: No big changes to lives

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The small-town Tennessee couple that bought one of three magic tickets splitting the world-record $1.6 billion Powerball jackpot says they don't plan to quit their jobs or buy a new house.

Their daughter, however, wants a horse.

After appearing on national television, John Robinson and wife Lisa went to the Tennessee lottery headquarters in Nashville on Friday to have their winning ticket verified by lottery officials. The couple's lump sum payout is about $327 million after buying the ticket for Wednesday night's drawing at a grocery store in their west Tennessee hometown of Munford, population 6,000. Two other winning tickets were bought in California and Florida.

At a news conference Friday, the Robinsons said they won't stop working and won't make any wild purchases. They'll pay off their mortgage and their daughter's student loans, but have no desire to move from their gray, one-story house in a close-knit community into a luxurious compound somewhere.

Lisa works at a dermatologist's office. John is a warehouse supervisor. Both plan to return to work Monday, they said. Friends and neighbors say the Robinsons are a hard-working, responsible family with the ability to humbly deal with their new fortune.

"That's what we've done all our lives, is work," John Robinson said. "You just can't sit down and lay down and not do nothing anymore. Because how long are you going to last? We do want to enjoy a little bit of our earnings, and maybe invest a little bit of it so our son and daughter will have it and they'll never need anything again."

No one has produced the other winning tickets, which overcame odds of 1 in 292.2 million to land on all six numbers at a Publix supermarket in Melbourne Beach, Florida, and a 7-Eleven in Chino Hills, California.

Victims call for police to seek other Bourbon Street shooter

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Victims of a 2014 Bourbon Street shooting spree express satisfaction at the conviction of Trung Le, who fired the first four bullets.

But they're calling on authorities to keep pursuing the still-unknown shooter who fired back 11 bullets on the French Quarter tourist strip.

The gunfire erupted early on the morning of June 29, 2014 as tourists strolled the famous street of nightspots. It killed 21-year-old Brittany Thomas, who was visiting New Orleans from Hammond, Louisiana and wounded nine others.

The outbreak of violence stunned the tourism-dependent city, renewed attention to manpower shortages at the city police department and led state police to help beef up the city's patrols in the French Quarter. Le, a 22-year-old Belle Chasse resident, was convicted Friday of manslaughter of Thomas and of attempted manslaughter for firing at the other gunman.

He faces 20 to 40 years in prison for manslaughter, and a maximum 20 years for attempted manslaughter. Sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 18.

Orleans Parish District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro told local media that police are still looking for the second shooter, who police say fired the bullet that killed Thomas.

"We want to first of all apprehend him," Cannizzaro said. "I know the police are going to work, they have been working very, very hard."

Nina Jasper, whose daughter, Sharome Rudolph, was shot through her ankle, said the verdict meant justice, but she wanted more.

"They just need to find the unknown shooter and it'll be total justice," she said.

Based on where the victims stood at the time, prosecutors alleged that Le's four bullets struck five people, including an Australian woman, Amy Matthews, who was shot in the mouth, fracturing her jaw and costing her more than half her teeth.

"Can I say awesome?!" Matthews exclaimed following the verdict. "It's justice for every one of the victims for sure."

Asia

After H-bomb test, N. Korea wants to focus on economy

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—After ringing in the new year with claims of its first successful hydrogen bomb test, North Korea is now calling on the United States and the world community to accept it as a nuclear power, jettison the pursuit of punitive sanctions and allow it to focus on what it really wants: build up the nation's troubled economy.

While waiting to see what kind of new sanctions might be imposed by the United States, the United Nations and others, North Korean officials say that with the test now out of the way they want the U.S. and its allies to back off and allow them to turn their attention toward peaceful economic growth, as promised by leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year address.

"The U.S. should be accustomed to the status of the DPRK as a nuclear weapons state whether it likes it or not," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement issued Friday, adding that the North will continue to bolster "in every way" its ability to field nuclear weapons to cope with the "ceaseless provocations" emanating from Washington.

North Korea's official name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Reflecting Pyongyang's concerns over the looming threat of sanctions, the statement struck a deliberately conciliatory tone by adding that the North stands by its previous offers to put a moratorium on nuclear tests and seek a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War if the United States halts its annual military exercises with the South—an offer Washington has repeatedly ignored in the past.

It also said the North would not use the weapons recklessly.

But the statement then switched back to defiant mode, accusing the United Nations of rushing to "fabricate a resolution on sanctions aimed at such hostile acts as hamstringing our efforts for peaceful economic construction and the improvement of the people's standard of living."

SIDEBAR Japan, US, S. Korea to work for strong warning to N. Korea

TOKYO (AP)—Senior diplomats from the U.S., Japan and South Korea concurred Saturday on the need for a strong response in the U.N. Security Council to North Korea's recent nuclear test.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his Japanese and South Korean counterparts said Saturday that a failure to send a clear message would risk further provocations by Pyongyang.

"The failure to take significant measures now almost guarantees North Korea will continue to repeat these moves," Blinken said. "It's the opposite of what we seek in the region."

The three said they agreed on the need for early adoption of the strongest resolution possible. But they did not give specifics of their talks, saying the discussions on a U.N. resolution were ongoing.

"If it's not resolved now, in coming years we may have to pay a higher price and therefore we need a clear message," said Lim Sung-nam, South Korea's first vice minister of foreign affairs.

All three said they were hoping that China, the North's closest ally and chief source of aid, would also work for a strong resolution.

North Korea is urging the world community to accept it as a nuclear power. Pyongyang has said it could stop nuclear tests in exchange for the U.S. scrapping joint military drills with South Korea. It also is calling for a peace treaty with the U.S., echoing demands that were rejected by Washington in the past.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesian police arrest 12 after Jakarta attack

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police said Saturday they have arrested 12 people suspected of links to the Jakarta bombings. The audacious attacks by suicide bombers and gunmen on Thursday in central Jakarta killed seven people, including two civilians. It was the first major assault by militants in Indonesia since 2009 and police said the attackers were tied to the Islamic State group. National police chief Gen. Badrodin Haiti told reporters that arrests were made in west and east Java and in Kalimantan. Elaborating on an earlier claim that the militants received funding via an Indonesian fighting with the IS in Syria, he said police have determined money was transferred to Indonesia via Western Union. Separately, authorities say they have blocked more than a dozen websites expressing support for Thursday's attack as they try to counter radical Islamic ideology online.

Maldives permits jailed ex-president to have surgery abroad

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The Maldives government said Saturday that it has given permission to an imprisoned ex-president to travel to Britain for surgery. The foreign ministry said in a statement that the permission was given on condition that Mohamed Nasheed serves the remaining years of his sentence once he returns. Nasheed was sentenced to 13 years in prison last March for ordering the military to detain a senior judge when he was president in 2012. The move led to weeks of public protests leading to his resignation. President Yameen Abdul Gayoom's administration drew widespread international condemnation over Nasheed's sentencing for an apparent lack of due process.

Nepal formally begins much delayed earthquake reconstruction

BUNGMATI, Nepal (AP)—Nepal officially launched the much-delayed reconstruction of about 1 million homes and buildings nearly nine months after they were damaged by devastating earthquake which killed 9,000 people. Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli unveiled plans to rebuild an old town south of Kathmandu to initiate the reconstruction campaign that is expected to take years and billions of dollars. Nepal has been criticized for delaying reconstruction work because of disagreements among political parties, the country's new constitution, ethnic protests and severe fuel shortages while people are still living in tents in cold mountain villages.

World

US, EU lift sanctions against Iran amid landmark nuke deal

VIENNA (AP)—The U.N. nuclear agency certified Saturday that Iran has met all of its commitments under last summer's landmark nuclear deal, crowning years of U.S.-led efforts to crimp Iran's ability to make atomic weapons. For Iran, the move lifts Western economic sanctions that have been in place for years, unlocking access to $100 billion in frozen assets and unleashing new opportunities for its battered economy.

AP

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, Yukiya Amano of Japan addresses the media at the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, in Vienna, Austria, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and the top diplomats of Iran and the European Union hailed the accord, reached after years of setbacks and a full decade after the start of international diplomacy aimed at reducing the possibility that Tehran could turn its nuclear programs to weapons making.

"Today marks the first day of a safer world," Kerry declared in Vienna. "This evening, we are really reminded once again of diplomacy's power to tackle significant challenges."

Additionally, Kerry linked the trust built between Iran and the United States over the past two years of talks to the release by Iran Saturday of four Americans who also hold Iranian nationality.

"Thanks to years of hard work and committed dialogue," he said, "we have made vital breakthroughs related to both the nuclear negotiations and a separate long-term diplomatic effort" that led to the freeing of the Americans.

EU Foreign Policy chief Federica Mogherini—in a statement also read in Farsi by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Jawad Zarif—said the accord "demonstrates that with political will, perseverance, and through multilateral diplomacy, we can solve the most difficult issues and find practical solutions that are effectively implemented."

UN panel: $40 billion needed to aid people in war, disasters

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—An estimated $40 billion is needed annually to help the rapidly growing number of people needing humanitarian aid as a result of conflicts and natural disasters—and one possibility to help fill the $15 billion funding gap is a small voluntary tax on tickets for soccer games and other sports, concerts and entertainment events, airline travel, and gasoline, a U.N.-appointed panel said.

The panel's report on humanitarian financing, to be launched later Sunday by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Dubai, says the world is spending around $25 billion today to provide life-saving assistance to 125 million people devastated by wars and natural disasters—more than 12 times the $2 billion that was spent in 2000.

"We have an exponentially growing problem," said panel co-chair Kristalina Georgieva, the European Commission's vice president for budget and human resources. "The good news is that the world has never been so generous to people in need. The bad news is that never has our generosity been so insufficient."

The nine-member panel calculated that an additional $15 billion is needed annually to reduce suffering and ensure that no one in need dies or has to live "without dignity" for a lack of money.

"This is a lot of money, but not out of reach for a world producing $78 trillion of annual GDP," the panel said in the report to the secretary-general released Sunday.

American missionary among dead in Burkina Faso hotel attack

NEW YORK (AP)—The mother-in-law of an American missionary confirmed Saturday that he was among those killed after al-Qaida fighters attacked a hotel and cafe in Burkina Faso's capital of Ouagadougou.

Carol Boyle said Michael Riddering, 45, died in the Cappuccino Cafe, where he was to meet a group Friday that was going to volunteer at the orphanage and women's crisis center he ran with his wife, Amy Boyle-Riddering.

Riddering arrived early and was in the cafe with a local pastor; when the attack started, they ran in different directions, Boyle said. The pastor had Riddering's phone, and called Boyle-Riddering to say they were at the cafe and there was gunfire, but then the line went dead.

The pastor hid in the cafe; he survived. It wasn't until a fellow Christian missionary found Riddering in the morgue on Saturday that they knew he was dead.

He leaves behind four children, two of whom were adopted from Burkina Faso.

"He was extremely well-loved and respected. He wasn't a hypocrite, he wasn't a two-face. He had his guiding light, and he followed it," Boyle said by phone from her home in Weston, Florida.

Riddering, who once managed a yacht outfitting company in Cooper City, Florida, and his wife, a graphic designer, sold their property and possessions and moved to the town of Yako to run the Les Ailes de Refuge orphanage in 2011, Boyle said. The complex also includes a clinic, classrooms and a home for abused women and widows.

"They were looking forward to continuing to working in Burkina Faso and raising their children together," a statement from Sheltering Wings, the missionary organization that sponsored the orphanage, said. "Tragically and unexpectedly, Mike's life was cut short. We grieve with Amy and her family, and all who knew Mike."

Health & Fitness

In Flint, Michigan, daily life revolves around lead fears

ROGER SCHNEIDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Flint, Mich., native and filmmaker Michael Moore attends a rally outside city hall in Flint, Mich., on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016, accusing Gov. Rick Snyder of poisoning the city's water.

FLINT, Mich. (AP)—The longest line at Freeman Elementary School's Family Fun Night was not for face painting or food. It was for lead testing.

For three months, families in the former auto manufacturing hub of Flint have taken their children for blood tests and lived on bottled water after doctors found high levels of lead in the bodies of the community's youngest people.

"It really is a scary situation to know that we can't get clean drinking water," said Sherri Miller, who brought her first-grade son, Jameer, to have a finger-prick blood sample tested. "It really is scary to think someone knew about this" and did nothing.

Nearly two years have passed since safe drinking water flowed from Flint faucets. The financially troubled city began drawing its water from the Flint River in 2014 to save money. Officials failed to treat the corrosive water properly to prevent metal leaching from old pipes. Worse, residents didn't learn they were drinking tainted water until the state issued warnings a year and a half after the switch was made.

For the city's 100,000 residents, daily life is now all about lead.

Before the crisis, Flint, about an hour's drive north of Detroit, had become a symbol of the decline of the U.S. auto industry, having suffered waves of auto plant layoffs and the loss of half its population. Forty-one percent of the population falls below the poverty line.

These days, it's a place where parents fear for the health of young children, who can develop learning disabilities and behavior problems from lead exposure.

"It has such damning, lifelong and generational consequences," said Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, director of pediatric residency at Hurley Children's Hospital, where more than 2,000 children have been tested. She is credited with bringing the problem to the public's attention after state agencies initially dismissed her concerns.

"It was frustrating that it went on for so long," Hanna-Attisha said, complaining that even since the state began taking action, "everything has been slow."

Gov. Rick Snyder finally acknowledged in late September that the water was unsafe, saying the consequences of switching to Flint River water were not "fully understood." The decision to use the river was made while a Snyder-appointed emergency manager was running city government.

The city, which had been under state supervision since 2011, returned to local control last April.

Flint went back to Detroit water in October, but some fear the old pipes were so damaged that they must be replaced, at costs estimated as high as $1.5 billion.

On Monday, Snyder apologized to Flint and pledged that officials would contact every household to ensure families have bottled water and a filter and to check whether they want to be tested for lead exposure.

He also promised to seek a long-term solution.

"This is a crisis," the governor said. "So we're responding appropriately. There's more work to be done."

Snyder's many critics got louder at midweek, when the governor announced that two spikes in Legionnaires' disease had occurred in the county that includes Flint during the time Flint River water was used. Ten people died. Michigan health officials said they cannot conclude that the outbreak stemmed from Flint's water, but others argued it probably had.

AP

Flint, Mich., native and filmmaker Michael Moore drinks from a Fiji water bottle accompanied by dozens of residents as he accuses Gov. Rick Snyder of poisoning the city's water during a rally outside of city hall in Flint, Mich., on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016.

Late Thursday, Snyder asked President Barack Obama to issue a federal disaster declaration in an effort to get federal aid, a move critics countered should have been taken sooner. The president signed an emergency declaration on Saturday and ordered federal aid for the city.

After Snyder declared a state of emergency Jan. 5, residents could go to fire stations to pick up a daily ration of one case of bottled water per household and a water filter. But even that effort fell short.

The following Monday, a pile of empty filter boxes was stacked against the wall at one station. One woman came back three times in the hope of getting one. Hours later, even the water was gone after volunteers had given out almost 900 cases. And the fire station had not received any of the lead test kits that had been promised.

Volunteers also began going door-to-door to distribute water. Snyder called on the National Guard to help.

For angry residents, it's still not enough.

"The state was telling everybody, 'It's fine, relax. ... It's safe,'" even as people complained that the water looked cloudy and tasted bad, said community activist Melissa Mays. "They lied."

Mays, her husband and three sons ages 11, 12 and 17 are taking medication to reduce high lead and other heavy metal levels in their blood.

"Like everybody else, we drank and cooked with it because they told us it was safe," she said.

Rabecka Cordell said she learned from her doctor that both she and her 5-year-old son, Dayne, have lead poisoning. She said she also has leukemia, and her son has learning and speech disabilities.

She won't even bathe in the water and won't wash her son in it.

"It's ridiculous," Cordell said.

At the elementary school's lead testing on Tuesday, more than 50 kids lined up. One was fifth-grader Maleah Gill.

"You wonder how long has it been in her system?" said her father, Matt Gill. "How much has she taken in? What's the effects?

Hurley Children's Hospital is distributing 10,000 booklets on mitigating the effects of lead on children, including recipes high in iron, calcium and vitamin C. Adding to the challenge is that there are few grocers with fresh produce within Flint city limits. At a local farmers market, the hospital offers weekly recipe and cooking demonstrations with lead in mind. The first one was hearty egg burritos.

Nutrition "has a huge mitigating role," Hanna-Attisha said.

She urged parents to consult early and often with a pediatrician.

In consultations, the doctor said, "we need to give families hope that with secondary prevention interventions, not every kid is going to have problems."

Life & Style

Gooding said he didn't want to meet with OJ Simpson

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Actor Cuba Gooding, Jr., who portrays O.J. Simpson in FX's 10-part miniseries on the 1995 murder trial, said he didn't want to meet the former football star as part of his research for taking on the role.

Gooding, who would not reveal at a news conference Saturday his opinion on whether Simpson stabbed his former wife Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman to death in June 1994, said the Simpson he needed to portray in the television film was a much different man then, swaggering and confident.

"I had no desire to visit him in his present condition, being incarcerated and being a shell of a man," he said. Gooding said he gained weight and it took him a month to recover from the grueling six-month filming.

The project, with executive producer Ryan Murphy and actors like John Travolta, David Schwimmer, Malcolm Jamal-Warner and Gooding, has been getting strong word-of-mouth before its Feb. 2 premiere. Based on a book by CNN's Jeffrey Toobin, writers and producers said they worked hard to make the docudrama as authentic as possible

Writers said they were interested in showing viewers how the seeming certainty of Simpson's guilt in the wake of the killings unraveled during the trial.

Travolta, who played attorney Robert Shapiro, said he took four months deciding whether to take his first television role in years. He's listed as a producer—he said it was his hedge against making sure the project wasn't sensationalistic—but found he did little in that role.

Besides the story of a trial, "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story" needed to reflect many undercurrents, including race relations and the nature of celebrity.

Schwimmer, who played lawyer Robert Kardashian, at one point in the film pleads with a gun-toting Simpson not to shoot himself "in Kimmy's bedroom." The scenes were shot in the house Kardashian and his later-to-be-famous family lived in, which "brought it home to us in a way that was really chilling," Schwimmer said.

Both Schwimmer, in the first flush of success with "Friends" at the time of the trial, and Travolta, in the midst of his "Pulp Fiction" career resurgence, recalled the trial happening at an intense time in their own lives.

Producers and writers said they made no effort to contact people involved in the case who were still alive, relying primarily on Toobin's book. Murphy, taking advice he said he learned from Julia Roberts when she played Erin Brockovich, advised the actors not to reach out to the people they portrayed

Nina Jacobson, an executive producer, said she believed it took two decades for a serious film to be made on the trial primarily because people were oversaturated by the case.

"We needed time and distance to be able to come back and look at it from a character perspective," she said.

Toobin, also a writer for The New Yorker magazine and a consultant on the film, said he found it eerie how meticulously producers recreated the courtroom where he sat for Simpson's murder trial, down to the fabric on chairs. He was jolted by the passing of time, however, when a director asked him why he didn't just Google some information that he didn't know during the trial; Google didn't exist at the time.

"This was the most famous event in American history that had never been dramatized," Toobin said. "I'm just fortunate that I'm involved in this story, but I knew it would happen someday."

AP
Cuba Gooding, Jr. arrives at the 2016 FX Winter TCA at the Langham Huntington Hotel & Spa on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016, in Pasadena, Calif.

Cher donates thousands of bottles of water to troubled Flint

Cher

NEW YORK (AP)—Cher is donating water to the residents of Flint, Michigan, as the city struggles with a drinking water crisis linked to lead contamination.

More than 180,000 bottles will be shipped to the city starting Monday, according to a statement Cher released to The Associated Press on Saturday.

"This is a tragedy of staggering proportion and shocking that it's happening in the middle of our country," the Oscar winner said.

The city's 100,000 residents haven't had safe water to drink since 2014, when officials began drawing water from the Flint River as a cost-saving measure. However, the city did not treat corrosive water properly, which led to metal leaching from old pipes.

The crisis prompted President Barack Obama to sign an emergency declaration clearing the way for federal aid.

Cher said she reached out to friend Brad Horwitz, who is an investor in the water company Icelandic Glacial. He contacted company leaders who agreed to double Cher's donation. The 181,440 bottles are expected to reach the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan starting Wednesday.

Ex-DA expected to be key defense witness at Cosby hearing

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—An ex-prosecutor is expected to testify that he promised Bill Cosby would never be charged over a 2005 sex-assault complaint, but a judge must decide if that constitutes an immunity deal.

Then-prosecutor Bruce Castor will be a key witness for the defense at a Feb. 2 hearing over what Cosby's lawyers have called a "non-prosecution agreement."

The defense argues that prosecutors who charged Cosby last month unfairly used his deposition testimony from the accuser's civil lawsuit against him. Castor supports their position.

But Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele, the prosecutor handling Cosby's case, said there is no evidence of a signed immunity agreement. Cosby's lawyers did not attach one to their recent motion to dismiss the case.

AP
In this Jan. 17, 2015 file photo, comedian Bill Cosby performs at the Buell Theater in Denver.

On Saturday, Andrea Constand's lawyer said she never knew of such an agreement.

"He (Castor) said ... that he talked to us about it. That's a lie," lawyer Dolores Troiani said. "It never happened."

Castor, in announcing that he wouldn't charge Cosby in 2005, had warned both sides that he could revisit the decision.

"District Attorney Castor cautions all parties ... that he will reconsider this decision should the need arise," he wrote in a press release. "Much exists in this investigation that could be used (by others) to portray persons on both sides of the issue in a less than flattering light."

Castor did not immediately return a call Saturday, after CNN reported that he sent an email to his successor last fall explaining the agreement with Cosby's attorneys.

Castor mounted an unsuccessful campaign against Steele to return to office last fall. His decision not to charge Cosby was an issue in the race.

In Cosby's deposition, unsealed last year, the TV icon and champion of family values detailed his romantic interest in Constand, who is gay; his pursuit of other young women during his long marriage; and his use of quaaludes in the 1970s as a seduction tool.

He said that on the night in question, he gave Constand wine and pills before performing a sex act. He called it consensual. She said she was drugged and violated.

Cosby settled the lawsuit soon after giving his deposition.

Steele considered the deposition testimony along with the avalanche of new accusers making similar claims as he weighed the decision to charge Cosby before the 12-year statute of limitations expired this month.

According to Troiani, Cosby could have invoked his Fifth Amendment right not to answer some questions at the deposition. But a jury could have made "a negative inference" about the decision if the case went to trial, she said.

Director Bay: Benghazi movie steers clear of politics

AP

In this photo provided by Paramount Pictures shows Pablo Schreiber, from left, as Kris "Tanto" Paronto, John Krasinski as Jack Silva, David Denman as Dave "Boon" Benton and Dominic Fumusa as John "Tig" Tiegen, in the film, "13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi" from Paramount Pictures and 3 Arts Entertainment/Bay Films.

MIAMI (AP)—The very word "Benghazi" screams politics to most people—especially in this election year. So, is it even possible to make a movie about the deadly 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, that's NOT political?

Director Michael Bay says it is—by focusing on what he calls the "great human story" that's never been really told, that of the security contractors who fought through the night of the deadly Benghazi attacks on a U.S. diplomatic compound, in which four Americans died—including Ambassador Christopher Stevens—but many others were saved during a 13-hour siege.

Bay, known best for his blockbuster "Transformers" series, sat down with the Associated Press in Miami recently to discuss "13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi," which opened Friday. (The interview has been edited for length and clarity).

AP: How is this movie not political?

Bay: How is it not political? Because listen, we all think we know Benghazi. But there was a great human story, that got buried. And that's the story I'm telling: the guys who were on the ground. The men and women that were stuck in the CIA annex, and how they fought for 13 hours to get out of there alive.

We worked very hard to get the facts right from the research of the book that (author Mitchell Zuckoff) did to the amazing access I have from working 20 years with the military, from the boots on the ground, the people who were in country to the CIA at a high level meeting to get just the facts right, the recently released emails. We just had to get it right.

AP: Who do you think was to blame for what happened?

Bay: Listen it was 13 hours, 13 hours. There's a pink elephant sitting in the room when you've got the most powerful country in the world, bases. I mean when I sat with the CIA I said 'C'mon guys,' I started naming Aviano, Sigonella (bases), really? It's an F16 flight, its 50 minutes—flight time overhead is 30 minutes. Listen I'm just saying, we show what was out there, and that's what we did. I'm not pointing fingers, I'm just giving the facts, I'm showing what was out there.

AP: Do you think the movie will influence the election?

Bay: No, no. What this is is an inspirational human story. And this is a classic nightmare story. It's a story when you have a nightmare, you want heroes like this to rescue you from your nightmares. And this is a movie—because I worked with so many special operators in the military, I worked in the military for so long, I'm personal friends with so many of them, I wanted to give integrity to the story, I wanted to tell the story because there's a positive message in it, in the human spirit. ... It's a movie that honors all first responders, from firemen to policemen to the men and women in the military that do this.

AP: Was it important to leave out the name of Hillary Clinton?

Bay: It wasn't even on the radar for this movie. I was telling their story on the ground from these guys' point of view.

AP: What kind of reaction do you hope from the military community?

Bay: People who have seen it have said it's one of the finest, most accurate military movies they've seen—that was a direct quote from somebody. One of the best friends of Tyrone Woods (a security team member who died) said, 'I want to thank you so much, you did my friend justice and honor.

AP: What do you hope viewers will take away from this film?

Bay: Just the great human story that you never are told. It just wasn't covered. I mean I watched every news station. I'm a news junkie.

AP: Will this movie appeal more to conservatives or liberals?

Bay: I think it's even, because at the heart, it's a human story. That's what shines here.

Celine Dion's brother dies just days after her husband

MONTREAL (AP)—Daniel Dion, the older brother of pop singer Celine Dion, died Saturday, just two days after the death of the entertainer's husband, Rene Angelil.

Celine Dion's representative Kim Jakwerth released a statement that Daniel Dion, 59, died Saturday surrounded by his family after battling cancer for several years. The statement said he died at a palliative care center in Terrebonne, Quebec, outside Montreal.

The family is "remembering a gentle and reserved man of many talents," the statement said.

The announcement follows the death on Thursday of the 73-year-old Angelil in suburban Las Vegas after a long ballet with throat cancer. Angelil was Celine Dion's manager for decades, molding her from a French-speaking Canadian ingénue into one of the world's most successful singers, best known for the smash hit "My Heart Will Go On," the theme from "Titanic."

Daniel Dion, the father of two daughters, was the eighth of 14 Dion children. The Dion siblings, including Celine, performed at their parents' small piano bar called Le Vieux Baril ("The Old Barrel") in the town of Charlemagne, Quebec.

AP

In this May 22, 2008 file photo, Canadian singer, Celine Dion, right, arrives with her son Rene-Charles, center, and her husband Rene Angelil, left, at the Elysee Palace to be awarded of the Legion d'Honneur by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in Paris.

Viewing will take place next Saturday, a day after Angelil's funeral is set to take place at Montreal's Notre Dame Basilica, the same church where he married the singer in 1994.

Daniel Dion's religious funeral will be held several days later at a church in the family's hometown of Charlemagne.

Couple's excessive drinking strains longtime friendship

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been friends with another couple, "Bill" and "Emily," for 20 years. We usually have dinner together once every four to six weeks.

In the past, everyone enjoyed a cocktail or a glass of wine with dinner and nobody overdid it. But over the last year or so, it is clear that they have started drinking earlier in the day, before we arrive. They each consume multiple drinks while my wife and I are still on our first. Emily often is noticeably drunk within the first hour and excuses herself to go to bed while Bill continues drinking. Often dinner plans at their house or at a nearby restaurant must be canceled because of this behavior.

When they visit our home, Emily helps herself to several glasses of wine before dinner and then passes out in our guest room, while Bill sits on the couch rambling on and we speed up the cooking to get food on the table. When dinner is finished, we suggest it's time to call it a night. Our get-togethers are now over in less than two hours.

How do we tell these otherwise nice friends that they drink too much?

UNWILLING BARTENDER IN ARIZONA

DEAR BARTENDER: The next time Bill and Emily come to your home for dinner, make sure your liquor is locked up and don't serve any. If you are asked about the omission, you and your wife should tell them that YOU have decided to "cut back" on your alcohol consumption because it will enable you to enjoy their company more. (I wish you could videotape their reaction.)

It will be interesting to see if you still enjoy their company when they are sober, and vice versa. If they take offense and decide to socialize with you less often, don't take it personally. Realize that alcohol now rules their lives.

I do not think you should try to perform an "intervention" because it doesn't appear you are close enough to them to do it with much success.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was married for 27 years before my divorce. The ending of my marriage was both painful and unexpected. I was in therapy throughout the divorce and for some time after.

Later I moved to another state so I would no longer have to risk running into him. But just when I think I have moved on, something is said or something happens that brings my pain and anger back to the surface.

I heard once that when one is in a serious relationship, that it can take twice as long to get over it. Is this the same for a marriage? Can I expect it to take 2 times 27 years before I am finally over my ex and my divorce?

UNEXPECTED DIVORCE

DEAR U.D.: There is no set timetable for "getting over" a divorce. Much depends on the reasons for it. Some people hang onto their pain and anger for the rest of their lives. Others grow beyond the experience and are able to move on. They cultivate new friends and interests, and sometimes find a romance to replace the one that was lost. I predict you will move beyond your pain and anger when you are ready for another relationship.

■■■

DEAR READERS: In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday we remember today: "To retaliate in kind would do nothing but intensify the existence of hate in the universe. Along the way of life, someone must have sense enough, and morality enough, to cut off the chain of hate."

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

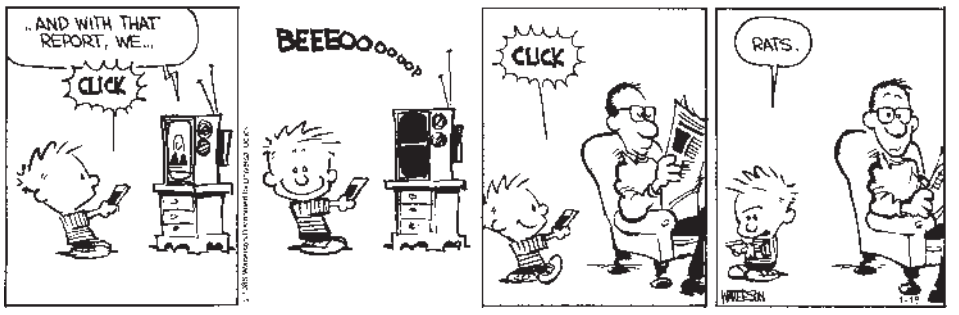
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

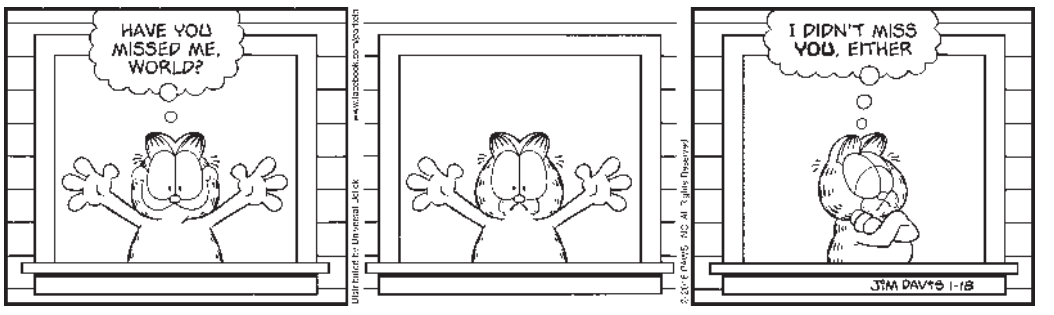
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



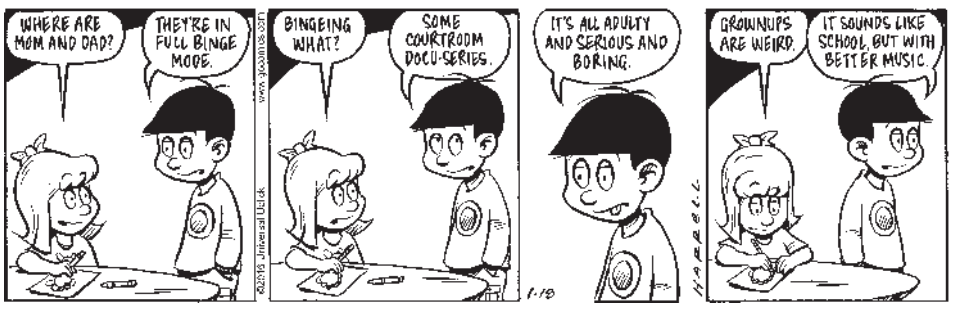
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHERE ARE MOM AND DAD?
THEY'RE IN FULL BINGE MODE.
BINGEING WHAT?
SOME COURTROOM DOCU-SERIES.
IT'S ALL ADULTY AND SERIOUS AND BORING.
GROWNUPS ARE WEIRD.
IT SOUNDS LIKE SCHOOL, BUT WITH BETTER MUSIC.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ram's mate
4 Oxford bottoms
9 Send by phone
12 Yule fuel
13 La Scala show
14 "— Gang"
15 Term paper features
17 Put — show
18 Used to be
19 Apt to gab
21 Makes leaner
24 Old salts
25 Midwest tribe
26 Summer mo.
28 Bigfoot's cousins
31 House top
33 More, to Manuel
35 Lab fluids
36 Prank
38 Gloomy guy
40 Furry pal
41 Sentry's cry
43 Chocolate dessert
45 One taking orders
47 Invoice fig.
48 "Snowy" bird
49 Pigskins
54 Speed (Abbr.)
55 Former Yankee manager Joe
56 Acorn source
57 Asner and Harris
58 Hurled weapon
59 007, for one

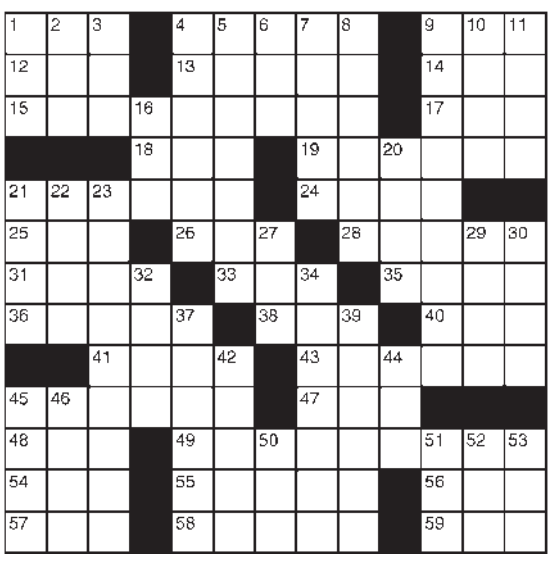
DOWN

1 Polar helper
2 Romance
3 Self-image
4 "Moonlight —"
5 Pogo, for one
6 Allow
7 Upright
8 Emulate a runway model
9 Horror flick sounds
10 Bee, to Opie
11 Dental photo
16 Delta rival, once
20 God of war
21 Mrs. Copperfield
22 English collar
23 Slopes at a mountain base
27 Joke
29 Ticks off
30 Fill up
32 Decree
34 Large Indonesian island
37 Chin dents
39 Doleful
42 Army unit
44 Ms. Hagen
45 Made baskets
46 Stunned
50 Mine find
51 — Alamos
52 Napkin's place
53 Blue hue

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	H	I		A	S	P		O	M	A	H	A
W	I	N		C	P	R		P	O	L	E	S
A	V	A		T	R	A	D	F	M	A	R	K
M	E	W		S	C	W	E	D				
I	T	E	M		U	N	E		U	F	O	S
			A	R	T		P	A	V	E	R	S
P	R	I	C	E				C	U	R	S	
M	E	R	L	C	T		T	E	L			
S	P	A	Y		H	E	H		A	V	O	N
			S	A	L	E	S			R	E	
M	A	H	K	I	W	A	I	N		C	I	A
T	I	B	I	A		T	R	I		A	F	R
S	L	I	M	Y		E	S	T		A	L	S

Friday's answer 1 - 18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Segel, 36; Jesse L. Martin, 47; Mark Messier, 55; Kevin Costner, 61.

Happy Birthday: Don't look back—it's full speed ahead. Your race to the top can only be matched by your desire and willingness to do whatever it takes to get there. Whether your goal is personal, financial, medical or emotional, you can achieve whatever you set out to do as long as you are persistent and use your intuition to guide you. Your numbers are 5, 13, 22, 25, 31, 37, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let laziness set in or depend on others to do things for you. The more aggressive your pursuits, the less complaints and annoyances you will face. Inspire others to pitch in and help. Romance will have its rewards. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take time to listen to the opinions of friends or relatives. Do your best to think of everyone's needs and ensure that you keep your relationships with others healthy. A professional opportunity will enhance your reputation. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A lack of understanding or trust will develop between you and your lover, a good friend or a family member. Be ready to offer an explanation and ask direct questions in order to clear the air. Re-evaluate your lifestyle choices. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Charity begins at home, so don't make an impulsive donation just to impress someone. If you have to overspend to get someone's attention, it's probably not worth your while. Make your own life better, not someone else's. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be careful how you present what you have to offer. If you exaggerate, you will end up looking bad. Focus more on truth and bringing about positive changes, and you will make a good impression. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Problems at home will develop if you don't take care of your responsibilities. Be mindful of others and you will be able to balance your life between business and pleasure. Plan a mini trip that will highlight both knowledge and physical activity. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Hobbies that take a lot of creative energy will help ease your stress while you figure out what to do about a concern you are harboring. Talking to someone who can offer an interesting perspective on the events in your life will help. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make plans to visit unfamiliar places, and look for any opportunity to share ideas and collaborate with people you find motivating. Make changes at home that will give you greater freedom to do the things you enjoy. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep your life simple and spend your time gathering information and learning all you can about a vocation or hobby you want to pursue. Make a promise to yourself to be more health conscious. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't worry about the things you have no control over. Concentrate on what you can do and make the changes that will improve your life. Home improvements and working toward better relationships with loved ones should take top priority. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can motivate others and capture their attention if you express your ideas and plans enthusiastically, but don't take on more than what you can handle. Try not to lose the support you've worked so hard to gain. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make a difference by sharing your concerns and solutions. Don't let your health suffer or a personal relationship cause you grief. If someone is a poor influence on you, be prepared to move forward alone. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, pragmatic and always prepared. You are cautious and traditional.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6			3			8		1
		8	7		2	4		
5	1						9	
	2		8		6		4	3
				4				
3	7		1		9		6	
	8						3	4
		3	2		8	1		
2		1			7			5

Difficulty Level ★ 1/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	1	9	6	3	7	5	2
6	3	7	2	8	5	9	4	1
9	2	5	7	1	4	3	8	6
5	1	8	3	9	6	2	7	4
4	6	2	5	7	8	1	9	3
7	9	3	1	4	2	8	6	5
2	7	9	4	5	1	6	3	8
3	8	4	6	2	9	5	1	7
1	5	6	8	3	7	4	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE SMELL OF GASOLINE Solution: 5 letters

H	X	A	S	E	N	A	L	P	R	I	A	E	F	O
A	Y	D	S	R	P	O	L	Y	C	Y	C	L	I	C
N	L	D	I	P	O	L	I	T	E	R	S	A	L	T
D	E	I	R	S	H	S	E	M	U	F	T	H	L	A
S	N	T	D	O	P	A	S	E	P	T	R	N	U	N
N	E	I	N	E	C	E	L	E	N	T	O	I	P	E
O	S	V	G	A	D	A	N	T	R	I	N	O	U	L
W	T	E	O	A	D	A	R	S	E	P	G	E	L	I
B	O	S	R	L	L	N	E	B	E	N	M	N	C	S
L	L	G	U	G	A	L	E	L	O	R	E	O	E	S
O	U	K	N	A	T	T	O	T	N	N	O	S	C	O
W	E	W	A	S	H	I	I	N	T	U	S	D	O	F
E	N	I	F	B	L	X	M	L	S	A	P	S	O	H
R	E	E	D	A	F	U	E	L	E	L	Z	Z	O	N
E	C	I	V	R	E	S	C	I	N	A	H	C	E	M

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Additives, Airplanes, Asphaltenes, Attendant, Compressor, Dispenser, Engine, Exhaust, Fade, Fill Up, Fine, Fossil, Fuel, Fumes, Gallons, Gas Bar, Grades, Hands, Hose, Hydrocarbons, Inhale, Liters, Mechanics, Nozzle, Octane, Odor, Oil, Polycyclic, Saw, Scent, Service, Snowblower, Strong, Tank, Toluene, Tools, Unleaded, Volatile, Xylenes

Last Thursday's Answer: Objective

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Find today's solution in classified section

Cardinals' 'Hail Larry' trumps Rodgers' Hail Mary

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—After being forced into overtime by another Hail Mary from Aaron Rodgers, the Arizona Cardinals wasted no time calling for the "Hail Larry" to get to the NFC title game.

On the first play of overtime, Carson Palmer spun away from a defender and threw across his body to an uncovered Larry Fitzgerald. The 32-year-old darted through tacklers for 75 yards as the screaming Cardinals fans finally drowned out the visiting Cheeseheads. He was tackled at the 5. On the next play, Palmer shoveled the ball to Fitzgerald who ran it in to give the Cardinals a 26-20 victory over the Packers Saturday night.

The stadium rocked with chants of "Larry! Larry!"

"As simple a word as 'special' is, it describes him probably the best," Palmer said.

Fitzgerald, who still holds single-season playoff records set during Arizona's Super Bowl run seven years ago, gave the Cardinals the signature plays that prevented what would have been a devastating loss for a team that has its sights on another trip to the NFL's biggest stage. He finished with eight receptions for 176 yards.

"As an elder statesman on this team I just try to elevate my game and make plays for my teammates," he said.

The Cardinals (14-3) play the winner of Sunday's Seattle-Carolina game for the NFC title.

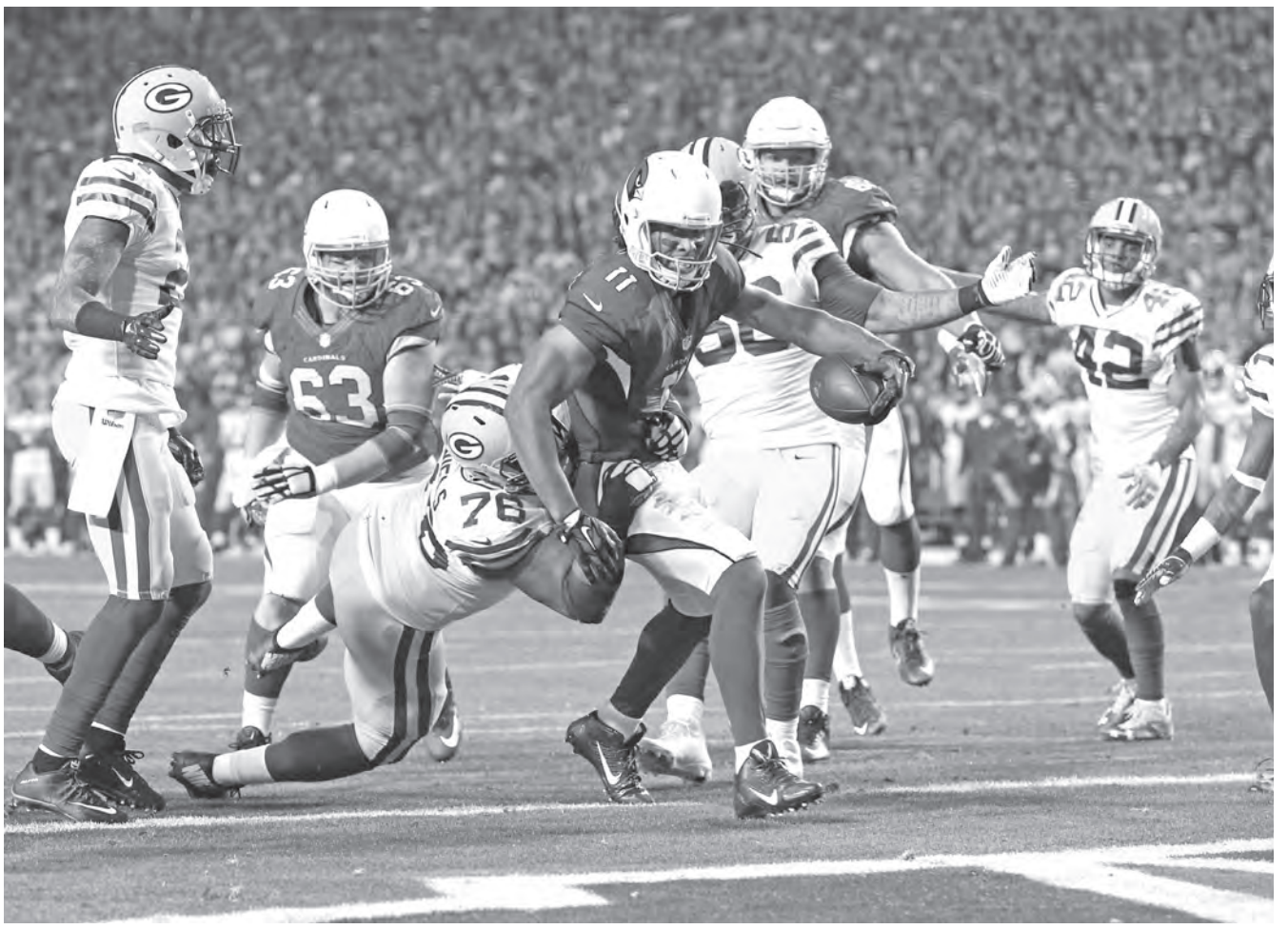
It can't be any crazier than this one, which unfolded on the same field where the Cardinals beat the Packers in overtime 51-45 in a 2009 wild-card game and where Arizona routed Green Bay 38-8 three weeks ago.

"Losing in that fashion, especially with the offense pulling that out, another Hail Mary, is unbelievable," Green Bay linebacker Clay Matthews said.

Rodgers, in a play reminiscent of his final-play heave against Detroit this season, took the snap with 5 seconds to go in regulation, scrambled around and heaved it 41 yards to the end zone.

Jeff Janis, a 6-foot-3 receiver pressed into extended duty because Green Bay's top two receivers were hurt, outjumped defenders Patrick Peterson and Rashad Johnson and clutched the ball to his chest as he fell to the turf in the silence of University of Phoenix Stadium, except for the Packers fans, who went nuts.

"I didn't know where anybody was really," Rodgers said. "I saw Jeff briefly and I just tried to put some air on it to give him a chance."



AP

Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald (11) scores the game-winning touchdown against the Green Bay Packers during the overtime of an NFL divisional playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016, in Glendale, Ariz. The Cardinals won, 26-20.

Arizona won the overtime coin toss—after the referee declared the first toss hadn't flipped—took the ball and scored a touchdown, denying the Packers a chance to touch the ball in the extra period.

"It comes down to a coin flip sometimes after a long hard-fought game," Rodgers said, "back and forth, bizarre plays made by both teams and unfortunately it comes down to that."

The Packers, already without wide receiver Davonte Adams, lost Randall Cobb in the first quarter to a chest injury. James Jones was neutralized most of the game with All-Pro Peterson on him, forcing Rodgers to go to Janis, who had seven catches, five more than he had all year.

A strange play had given Arizona a 20-13 lead with 3:44 to play.

Damarious Randall, who moments earlier had made a key interception in the end zone, deflected a pass intended for Fitzgerald and the ball sailed into the end zone into the hands of Michael Floyd for a 9-yard touchdown. Floyd also had an 8-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter, dragging his foot to stay in bounds and gather in Palmer's high throw.

The Packers (11-7) took the kickoff but went nowhere and turned the ball over on downs, setting up Chandler Catanzaro's 38-yard field goal that put Arizona up 20-13 with 1:55 to play.

With 55 seconds left, Green Bay was pushed back into a fourth-and-20 at its 4. Rodgers scrambled and threw 60 yards to Janis at the 36. A penalty pushed it back to the 41 and Rodgers threw incomplete before getting off his last completion for the touchdown.

"That's Aaron Rodgers," Arizona linebacker Kevin Minter said. "I think it was No. 83 (Janis). Man, he made a play, didn't he? It looked like they batted it down and he just made a great play. My (darn) jaw was on the ground."

Rodgers completed 24 of 44 passes for 261 yards and two touchdowns with one interception. Palmer, in his first playoff victory (in three tries) was 25 of 41 yards for 349 yards and three scores with two interceptions.

"It was a roller coaster on the sidelines," Arizona coach Bruce Arians said. "You've just got to keep all your emotions in check and go to the next play. No matter what happened on the last play, you've got to go good, bad or ugly on the next play, and that's basically what our football team did."

Green Bay dominated statistically for much of the game, taking a 13-7 lead on Rodgers' pass to Janis with 10:17 left in the third quarter.

"I can't say we played our best game," Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy said. "We didn't play well. We didn't do enough to win. We had a lot of things we needed to overcome and they just kept battling."

Patriots 27, Chiefs 20

In Foxborough, the Patriots' late-season slump didn't mean much when the playoffs came to New England. Kansas City's 11-game winning streak mattered even less.

With Rob Gronkowski and Julian Edelman coming back from injuries to help Tom Brady return to his Super Bowl MVP form, the Patriots earned a spot in the AFC title game for the fifth year in a row, beating the Chiefs 27-20 on Saturday.

"It's pretty special to get back to another AFC championship game," said Brady, who will play for the conference title for the 10th time in his career. "It's pretty cool. It's hard to do, man. You've got to grind throughout the entire year. There's only four teams playing next week and we're one of them. That game means a lot."

The Patriots (13-4) are trying to become the first team to win back-to-back NFL titles since they did it in 2003-04. But first they will meet the winner of Sunday's game between the Steelers and Broncos for a spot in Super Bowl 50.

The defending champions would play in Denver on Jan. 24 if the Broncos win, or at home if it's the Steelers.

"You can't take it for granted because everybody knows how hard it is to get there," said Edelman, who was sidelined with a broken foot when the Patriots lost four of their last six regular-season games. "We didn't do too well down the stretch and we were playing against a team that won 11 games in a row.

"We didn't worry about what's happened in the past or what's going to happen in the future."

Snedeker, Blair tied for lead at Sony Open

HONOLULU (AP)—The worst putt of the day for Zac Blair cost him the lead at the Sony Open on Saturday. It probably won't cost him that much sleep.

Blair was still tied for the lead with Brandt Snedeker. He was hitting fairways and greens, the key to playing Waialae. And he has never had a better chance than this to win on the PGA Tour.

Despite missing a 2-foot birdie putt on the par-5 18th, Blair had a 6-under 64 after another round of pristine weather on the shores north of Waikiki Beach. Snedeker missed birdie putts of 10 feet and 12 feet on the last two holes for a 66.

They were at 194, one shot ahead of Kevin Kisner (66).

"I feel like if I can keep doing what I'm doing, getting the ball in playing, getting in on the green, make a few putts," he said before pausing. "I've missed a couple of shorter ones, but it's been good."

The real challenge will be Sunday.

Snedeker is a seven-time winner on the PGA Tour who has been atop the leaderboard after each round. Kisner might be the hottest player in golf not named Jordan Spieth. This is the third time he's been in the final group in his last four starts.

Snedeker remembers his first time in the last group as a rookie at Torrey Pines in 2007.

"I can definitely relate," he said. "The one difference was I had Tiger Woods teeing off right (in front of) me, so that was a little bit disconcerting, to say the least. And I don't think Zac views me as Tiger Woods, so I think he'll be OK. The nerves are going to be there. He's got a great caddie in Andy Martinez to kind of help him get through it, and the golf course sets up really well for him. So I don't see him having too many issues."

Si Woo Kim, the 20-year-old from South Korea, finished strong with a birdie and an eagle for a 65 that put him two back.

Blair, whose father played briefly on the PGA Tour in the 1980s, wasn't the only player to struggle on the 18th. Jeff Overton was poised to shoot 62 when he took four shots to get in from a greenside bunker on the 18th and made bogey for a 64.

He was five shots behind. Fabian Gomez of Argentina had a 65 and was four back.

Saturday at least produced a little separation. Two dozen players were within five shots of the lead when the third round began. Now there are 12. That includes Matt Kuchar, who closed with six straight birdies for a 62 - a card that included two bogeys.

Snedeker started the third round with a one-shot lead and kept at least a share of it until Blair, playing in the group in front of him, rolled in an 18-foot birdie on the 15th hole. By then it appeared to be a three-man battle among Snedeker, Blair and Kisner.

Pistons rout Warriors despite Curry's 38 points

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Before the game, Detroit coach Stan Van Gundy said Golden State simply has more margin for error than other teams, meaning the Warriors can win even when they don't play their best.

Not on this night against Van Gundy's Pistons.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope held his own against Stephen Curry for most of the night, scoring 20 points as the Pistons handed the Warriors their second loss in three games, 113-95 on Saturday.

Much of the pregame talk centered around how well Caldwell-Pope might be able to defend Curry. The Golden State star scored 38 points, but Caldwell-Pope gave the Pistons a boost offensively.

"I think we know that we're capable of beating anybody," Van Gundy said afterward. "The difference between the Golden States, San Antonios, Clevelands of the world and where we are right now, is you've got to do it night after night after night after night after night, and that's our challenge."

The Warriors (37-4) reached the midway point of the regular season a win short of the best 41-game start in NBA history. The 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers and 1995-96 Chicago Bulls started 38-3.

Detroit retired Ben Wallace's No. 3 jersey at halftime, and by that time the Pistons led 65-49 on a raucous night at the Palace.

Curry scored 16 points in the third, but the Warriors still trailed by 11 at the end of period. Then Detroit started the fourth with a 16-2 run to lead 101-76.

"We've been saying it all year, but no matter where we go, teams are going to give us their best shot," Warriors interim coach Luke Walton said. "It was a big night with the crowd, it was a sellout, retiring Ben Wallace's jersey. They were coming after us. ... In this league if you're not ready to fight back, you're going to get blown out."

Golden State was whistled for three technical fouls. Curry and Draymond Green were hit with technicals late in the second quarter, and Walton was called for one in the fourth after a dunk by Detroit's Andre Drummond. The technical free throw by Stanley Johnson made it 94-74.

Drummond had 14 points and 21 rebounds, and Reggie Jackson scored 20 points for Detroit. The Pistons had six players in double figures, while Golden State had only three. Klay Thompson scored 24 points for the Warriors.

Golden State's Andre Iguodala went scoreless, and Green had five points on 1-of-7 shooting.

Grizzlies 103, Knicks 95

In Memphis, the Grizzlies beat New York in the first game between the teams since the NBA suspended Grizzlies forward Matt Barnes for two games for his fight with Knicks coach Derek Fisher in October.

Barnes finished with two points and nine rebounds in 26 minutes. Despite the buildup to the first game between the sides, there were no incidents between Barnes and Fisher.

Marc Gasol had 37 points and eight rebounds to help the Grizzlies to their fourth win in five games. He was 15 for 29 from the field.

AP

Detroit Pistons center Andre Drummond (0) blocks a shot by Golden State Warriors center Festus Ezeli (31) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016, in Auburn Hills, Mich. The Pistons defeated the Warriors, 113-95.

Kristaps Porzingis led the Knicks with 17 points, while Kyle O'Quinn added 15 points.

Kings 110, Clippers 103

In Los Angeles, DeMarcus Cousins had 19 points and 13 rebounds, Omri Casspi added 17 points and the Kings stopped the Clippers' 10-game win streak.

Casspi went 5 for 8 from 3-point range.

J.J. Redick scored 22 points, hitting five 3-pointers, and reserve Jamal Crawford added 20 points for the Clippers, who were tied with the idle Spurs for longest active win streak in the NBA.

Cole Aldrich had 19 points and 10 rebounds in his second start for the Clippers, who never led in the second half.

Sacramento's Rudy Gay added 18 points and Darren Collison had 17.

Hawks 114, Nets 86

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 21 points and went past 10,000 for his career, leading Atlanta to a dominant second half.

Brooklyn scored the first seven points of the third quarter, tying it at 55. The Hawks pulled away from there, pushing the lead to 84-68 by the end of the period and as many as 33 in the final quarter.

Atlanta stopped a two-game losing streak and reached the midpoint of the season at 24-17. A year ago, the Hawks were 33-8 on the way to claiming the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

Millsap, who has scored at least 18 points in 11 straight games, reached the career milestone on a layup in the second quarter.

Thaddeus Young led the Nets with 18 points. Only two other Brooklyn players were in double figures.

Sixers 114, Trail Blazers 89

In Philadelphia, Jahlil Okafor had 25 points and 10 rebounds to help Philadelphia snap a four-game losing streak.

Richaun Holmes added 17 points and Ish Smith and Robert Covington scored 16 apiece for the Sixers, who enjoyed a rare blowout victory. They improved to 5-37 with their most lopsided win of the season.

Damian Lillard scored 14 points for the Blazers, who dropped to 18-25 as their three-game winning streak ended. C.J. McCollum finished with 13 points, and Mason Plumlee and Miles Leonard had 12 apiece.

Jazz 109, Lakers 82

In Salt Lake City, Rudy Gobert had 18 points, 18 rebounds and five blocked shots, leading Utah to the easy win.

The Jazz used a 26-5 spurt in the first quarter, including three baskets by Trey Burke, to run away with the game. The Lakers' last lead came at 7-4.

Gobert recorded his first double-double since returning from an MCL injury. Gordon Hayward added 14 points for Utah, and Trey Lyles finished with 17 points and nine rebounds.

Lou Williams led the Lakers with 20 points and D'Angelo Russell added 13. Kobe Bryant played 15 minutes and scored five points.

The Lakers have lost six of seven since a season-high three-game win streak.

Celtics 119, Wizards 117

In Washington, Jae Crowder had a go-ahead layup with 3.9 seconds left off a pass from Marcus Smart, lifting Boston to the road win.

Isaiah Thomas scored 32 points for the Celtics, who earned their third consecutive victory. They had dropped their last three road games.

Crowder added 22 points for Boston, which had five players in double figures and trailed by as many as 11 before halftime.

John Wall scored a season-high 36 points for Washington, but missed a potential tying runner at the buzzer. He also had 13 assists and seven steals in 44 minutes.

Washington was missing Bradley Beal, who sat out the second of back-to-back games.

Bucks 105, Hornets 92

In Charlotte, Khris Middleton scored 24 points on 11-of-16 shooting, leading Milwaukee to the road win.

Greg Monroe had 19 points and 10 rebounds for Milwaukee, and Giannis Antetokounmpo finished with 14 points and 11 boards. Jabari Parker scored 15 points.

Milwaukee shot 54.2 percent (39 for 72) from the field in its fourth win in six games. The Bucks also had a 46-35 rebounding edge.

Charlotte has lost nine of 10. Jeremy Lin led the Hornets with 15 points on 6-of-13 shooting.

Chris Davis, Orioles agree to 7-year, $161M deal

BALTIMORE (AP)—Chris Davis and the Orioles are together again.

Multiple people with knowledge of the situation say Davis has agreed to a seven-year, $161 million contract with Baltimore, pending a physical.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Saturday because the Orioles have not announced the transaction.

The 29-year-old Davis has been with Baltimore since 2011. He hit a major-league leading 47 home runs and amassed 117 RBI last year.

Davis became a free agent after the 2015 season, and he wondered aloud during the final week whether his time in Baltimore was up.

"I'm trying not to reminisce too much just yet," he said. "I definitely want to enjoy these last few games, just kind of take everything in, being around these guys, playing in front of our fans, and wearing this uniform. I try not to let myself look too far ahead. If I did that, it would be a lot harder the last few days and take some joy away."

The Orioles were his most aggressive suitor, offering a seven-year deal last month. Since coming to the Orioles in a July 2011 trade with Texas, Davis has been a sensational run producer and a positive force in the clubhouse.

"I've said all along, Chris is a body-of-work guy," manager Buck Showalter said. "When you get through and step back, he can do a lot of things that not many people can do. He may go some at-bats and just not look aesthetically pleasing, but he's always one swing, one at-bat away. He squares up a ball, and it goes where you can't defend it."

After Davis and his agent, Scott Boras, stalled making a decision this offseason, Baltimore reportedly made an offer this week to hard-hitting free agent Yoenis Cespedes.

Within days, Davis had himself a deal.

Davis has 203 career homers, including 126 over the last three years. He hit a career-high 53 long balls in 2013.

CNMI plays training matches in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A big pool of CNMI female players left for Guam last weekend for a series of training matches that will prepare the crew for a couple of off-island tournaments this year.

The 25-player pool left Saipan last Friday morning and was scheduled to see action in four matches at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo. The group has a mixed of members of the CNMI youth and women's teams and is composed of Princess Alcantara, Mary Kay Alferos, Chevy Kate Alipio, Sarah Allen, Carla Ballesteros, Guinevere Borja, Angelica Carreon, Jeraldine, Jeralyn, and Jerlyn Castillo, Katrina Costales, Elaine Enriquez, Renita Fleming, Diana Maniacop, Diane Pablo, Gabrielle Race, Angelica, Leisha, and Lyka Sally, Chloe Salvosa, Pinyarat Shankweiler, Krisel and Kyla Tuazon, Angelina Villagomez, and Britany Wally.

The Commonwealth players first dueled Bud Light Women's Soccer League 2015 fall season champion Quality Distributors and dropped a close match last Friday. 1-2. Jeralyn Castillo hit the lone goal for the visiting crew, while April Talledo nailed the brace for the champion squad.

Then last Saturday, the CNMI bets faced Personal Finance Center Lady Crushers and lost another tightly fought match, 2-3. Villagomez knocked in the pair of goals for the CNMI, while Kimberly Sherman, Koharu Minato, and April Talledo scored for the Women's GFA Cup 2015 champion.

The visiting team was scheduled to collide against the Lady Rovers last night and then will challenge Guam's U14 and U16 training squad in a morning match today before heading home in the afternoon.

"NMIFA put together this training camp to allow our training squad to gain playing experience in preparation for upcoming AFC and EAFF girls and women's tournaments this year," said Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta in a statement provided to *Saipan Tribune* by host GFA.

"Women's competition on Saipan is limited and in order to do well in tournaments, they need to experience different playing styles," added Zapanta, who accompanied the group along with NMIFA president Jerry Tan and coaches Luam Khen Koo and Taketomo Suzuki.

Angie Ito, who helps facilitate the pool's training sessions on Saipan said the youth members of the group—Alcantara, Tuazon, Jerlyn Castillo, Leisha Sally, and Katrina Costales—will be competing in the AFC U14 Regional Championships in May this year (venue has yet to be determined), while the other players in the pool will play in the Luen Thai Cup and in an East Asian Football Federation-sanctioned tournaments this summer.

"This training camp is a great opportunity for our players and we thank GFA executives and staff for hosting us, coordinating matches, and allowing us to train. We also thank GFA Executive Committee member George Lai who helped us by loaning vehicles for our delegation," Zapanta said.

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The CNMI's Gabrielle Race, second left, and a Personal Finance Center Lady Crushers player ward each other off during a training match last Saturday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

SLOTHS

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a twice-to-beat edge in the title match.

Yamada and Guevarra faced elimination three times, but managed to overcome the odds to earn the right of facing the top-seeded Willsey and Steinkuller.

The Bumpin Uglies seemed headed for a Game 1 win that would have forced a winner-take-all Game 2 when it enjoyed a 12-8 lead against the Sloths.

But Willsey and Steinkuller won't be denied of the victory. Using their chemistry to the hilt, Willsey and Steinkuller won 13 of the last 15 points to foil Yamada and Guevarra's bid of prolonging the title match.

While Willsey and Steinkuller had the luxury to rest for sweeping their way to the finals, Yamada and Guevarra went through the eye of the needle to advance to the championship match.

Yamada and Guevarra came back from a 3-point deficit to oust the 100+ of Linda Anastacio and Rob Epley, 21-18. They next faced Ask Jacoby of Jacoby Winkfield and Nicole LeBlanc and again avoided elimination after rallying in the closing phase of the game.

Winkfield and LeBlanc were at match point, 20-17, but wasted their lead as Yamada and Guevarra played excellent defense and managed to find the open spots to complete the come-from-behind win, 22-20.

The Bumpin Uglies then faced Team TNA of the husband-and-wife tandem of Tyce and Angie Mister. Yamada and Guevarra showed signs of fatigue against TNA as the Misters controlled the early goings of their semis match.

However, Yamada and Guevarra managed to find their second wind and kept hitting the ball at the backline. Guevarra also scored a number of points on power spikes that caught the Misters off guard for a 21-12 victory.

Bumpin Uglies luck, however, ran out against the Sloths as the crafty pair of Willsey and Steinkuller used their power spikes and timely placement of drop shots against Yamada and Guevarra.

In other results, TNA came in third, while Egao topped the consolation bracket with a masterful 21-19 win over Out Of Bounds.

Last weekend's tournament were organized by Kathy Winkfield and Tyce Mister with the help of other volunteers who set up six volleyball courts at the Capital Hill Ballfield. The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, hosting its first event in 2016, moved the venue to Capital Hill after the Navy Hill Ballfield was reserved for a Little League practice session last Saturday.

'NANNI'

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Lizama and Attorney General Edward Manibusan registered similar net scores of 76s, followed by the 77 each of former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Juan Babauta and Tony Guerrero.

Larry Guerrero had a 78, while Nick Sablan and Joe Demapan finished with a 79 and 80 respectively. Frances Sablan, Alex Tudela and Ed C. Sablan ended up with 81s, while Jess Castro had an 82 and Ray Salas came up with a 95.

Kautz was the longest drive winner at No. 2 with Frances Sablan duplicating the feat at No. 11. Manibusan had the closest to the pin shot at No. 6, while Nick Sablan did the same at No. 8, Frances Sablan at No. 12, and Cruz at No. 16.

MJD

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sarte's inbound pass.

Moreno went on to step ahead of his defender Jojo Parcotillo and drove strong to the basket, but his banked shot which was challenged by Jun Tabora had too much spin and went past the right side of the rim. Alipio collared the rebound after Moreno's sorry miss and the former was fouled anew.

Alipio muffed the first charity, but made the second one, leaving Armatech with no choice but to call another timeout and attempt for a game-tying triple with 10.8 seconds remaining on the clock.

Dindo Pablo tried to square off for the triple, but was well covered so he was forced to drive and dish the ball out to Moreno, who was at the left key and also made the motion to shoot from downtown. However, he had Parcotillo in front of him, while Tabora also provided help defense. In the end, Moreno kicked the ball out to James Abuy at the right key and the latter still had the ball on his hands and was shadowed by MJD's Randy Mungcal when time expired and Armatech failed on its bid to pull off an upset against its top-ranked foe.

It was a heartbreaker for Armatech, as it led by as much as 14 in the second period, 42-28, before falling apart in the second half. Armatech posted the biggest spread in the finale after drawing 11 points from Abuy in the second quarter alone.

MJD, which was on top by 3 at the beginning of the second frame, 20-17, fell behind after coach Marvin Deocares opted to sit out Alex Ocampo and Randy Mungcal in the majority of that period. Ocampo spent a lot of minutes on the bench in the second quarter despite waxing hot early and scoring 8 points.

Later after the finale, Deocares explained he was afraid that fatigue may caught up with his key players in the homestretch so he decided to rest them in the second quarter to prepare for the tough grind ahead.

The gamble paid off as Ocampo returned in the second half fresh and drilled 7 points in the third period to move MJD within three, 54-57, entering the final frame.

In the fourth quarter, Mungcal began MJD's scoring with his 5 straight points, including a triple that gave the lead back to his team, 59-57. MJD went on to open a 69-61 advantage, as it held Armatech to two field goals off James Abuy's short jumper and an undergoal stab from the foul-troubled Bruce Berline for nearly the first six minutes of the final quarter.

However, Armatech fought back and equalized, 71-all, off Abuy and Pablo's triples and a putback from Berline, 25 seconds left on the clock. In between that rally, Armatech could have reclaimed the upper hand, but Pablo missed two free throws and two treys. MJD, on the other hand, scored only 2 points in the next three minutes and change after building an 8-point cushion off Tabora's pullup jumper near the foul line.

Armatech tried to retaliate quickly after Tabora's basket, but Pablo faltered a fastbreak layup. Fortunately, Berline was there for the trailer and the putback to tie the match. However, Berline in an attempt to steal the ball from Mungcal after the inbound play, committed his fifth and last foul, leaving Armatech without a strong presences in the paint in the closing seconds of the match. Armatech gave up another foul with Gabaldon trying to reach in against Alipio on MJD's frontcourt, sending the latter to the stripe for the pressure-packed charities.

Alipio delivered the clutch free throws and added one more on their next possession to hand MJD the masters championship.

Alipio was one of the five MJD players who scored in double figures in the finale with his 11 markers. Tabora also had 11, while Ocampo paced MJD with his 15 markers. De Guzman and Mungcal tallied 13 each with the former stepping up in the second quarter to prevent Armatech from pulling away in the first half.

Abuy led all scorers with his 18 points, while Berline chipped in 17 despite being saddled with four fouls late in the second canto.

Meanwhile, VM Production took the third place trophy after a no-show from GMJ/IKKI Wholesale in the consolation game.

MJD 74—Ocampo 15, De Guzman 13, Mungcal 13, Tabora 11, Alipio 11, Parcotillo 6, Vargas 5.

Armatech 71—Abuy 18, Berline 17, Pablo 12, Moreno 10, Gabaldon 6, Malasarte 4, Poquiz 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-17, 35-42, 54-57, 74-71.

2015-2016 NMISF Open Swim Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis, front, is in a tight race against Lennosuke Suzuki during the 100m freestyle event in the 2015-2016 NMISF Open Swim Meet held early this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru in a pensive mood before joining the 50m freestyle race.

Saipan Swim Club's R.J. Pierce does the breaststroke part of the 200m individual medley event.

Tsunami Saipan's Aasish Dangol races in the 50m breaststroke event.

Saipan Swim Club's Jinnosuke Suzuki stretches before stepping on the starting block.

A Tsunami Saipan member adjusts her goggles while waiting for the start of the 50m freestyle race.

Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy is past the halfway mark of the 50m freestyle race.

Tsunami Saipan's Ashley Dangol plunges into the pool during the 50m freestyle race.

Cardinals' 'Hail Larry' trumps Rodgers' Hail Mary

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MJD nips Armatech in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MJD Enterprises took the masters division crown in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League after pulling off a 74-71 victory over Armatech last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

MJD saved enough gas on its tank to fuel up a second half comeback, which was completed by Jun Alipio's three free throws and a couple of defensive stops in the closing seconds of the exciting finale.

Alipio knocked in his first two free throws in the last 18.5 seconds after drawing a foul on Yosh Gabaldon to break the last deadlock in the match, 73-71.

MJD then sued for time after Alipio's perfect performance from the foul line to discuss some defensive strategies, while Armatech did the same to talk things over on the offensive end. When the game resumed, Armatech ran a nearly flawless play with Martin Moreno using his teammates' picks to roll to the right baseline and receive Bong Mala-

See MJD on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MJD Enterprises' Bobby Vargas, right, draws a foul on Armatech's George Poquiz during the second quarter of their title game in the masters division of the San Antonio caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

'Nanni' leads SGA Ace of Aces Day 1

JON PEREZ
John "Nanni" Cruz takes time before going for a swing during the first day of the Saipan Golfers Association's Ace of Aces tournament held last Saturday at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

John "Nanni" Cruz survived a bogey-filled round to lead the opening day of the Saipan Golfers Association's Ace of Aces tournament held last Saturday at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

The final round, which was also SGA's January Ace of the Month, was played at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course yesterday and results were unavailable at press time.

Cruz, the February Ace of the Month winner, shot a 43 on the front nine and a 44 on the back for a gross score of 87 and his 18 handicap gave him a net 69. He holds a four-shot lead over October Ace Gregorio Sablan Jr. and SGA president Eun Jung Teack, who both ended up with 73s.

Sablan, whose birdie at 13th eased the pain of his 10 bogeys, fired rounds of 45 and 46 for a 91 gross. His 18 handicap earned him a net score 73.

Teack, the April Ace of the Month champion, was also not lucky as he even shot a 5-over at the par-4 No. 5 after encountering some problems with the water hazard. He posted 44 and 40 for an 84 gross, and with an 11 handicap, he ended up with a net 73.

Ten of the 26 SGA members listed for the weekend tournament did not compete on the first day.

Rick Kautz, Juan "Jaan"

See 'NANNI' on Page 26

Sloths rules grass v-ball tourney

JON PEREZ
Tyler Willsey, left, prepares to spike the ball as teammate Christen Steinkuller looks on in their finals match against Alfredo Guevarra and Toni Yamada in last Saturday's 9th Annual Reverse Coed Grass Volleyball Tournament at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team Sloths 'N' Slugs 'N' Harmony bested 22 other squads to rule the 9th Annual Reverse Coed Grass Volleyball Tournament held last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Sloths—composed of Tyler Willsey and Christen Steinkuller—foiled the Cinderella run of the Bumpin Uglies' Toni Yamada and Alfredo Guevarra in the finals, 21-14.

Willsey and Steinkuller, who have been playing together for four years, went undefeated in the one-day, double elimination round tournament. They earned the first finals berth and enjoyed

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